

SOLDIER

A man in a British military uniform, including a green short-sleeved shirt, brown trousers, and a black belt, is holding a large Union Jack flag. He is looking down at the flag with a slight smile. The background is a clear blue sky. The flag is partially unfurled, showing its characteristic red, white, and blue colors with yellow lions and a white saltire.

JUNE 25 1990

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FRONT COVER: Cpl David Anderson of 2 RGJ furls the Royal Standard in preparation for the commemorative service on the 50th anniversary of the defence of Calais at the Green Jackets' Calais War Memorial where the Duke of Gloucester inspected a parade which included more than 100 veterans of the battle. See Pages 26-27.

Picture: Mike Weston

JUNE 25, 1990

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SOLDIER

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY
incorporating the Territorial Army magazine



SITTING on a pile of stretchers no one wants to see used is Lt Col John Booth, CO of 16 Field Ambulance RAMC, flanked by one of his staff, Sgt Mark Jones and (left) Petty Officer Peter Kerr from the Commando Logistic Regiment.

The unit moved five miles from its base at Bulford Camp and set up a casualty clearing station at Boscombe Down during the period of the Battle of Britain commemorative air display attended by an estimated 250,000 people.

It was augmented by personnel from the Commando Forces and reserve naval units, by doctors, nurses and anaesthetists from 219 Field Hospital (TA), Bristol, and 4626 Air Evacuation Squadron RAF.

Strict arrangements for emergency cover at major displays have been imposed since three Italian jets crashed into the crowd at an air show at Ramstein, Germany, killing and

Battle ready

injuring scores of spectators.

At Boscombe Down two ambulance columns (22 vehicles in all) stood by . . . along with police, rescue and fire services.

In the event of a major incident involving enclosures or the runways, casualties were to be taken to the clearing station and, after assessment and, where necessary, emergency treatment, transported by road or air to pre-designated hospitals.

All aircraft taking part in the displays and suitable for the task were stripped inside so they could take stretcher cases straight to their destination.

**NEXT
ISSUE**

To mark the PARA 90 celebrations at Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot on July 7, our next issue will contain reports and pictures of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment serving in Belfast, and an exclusive interview with Maj Gen John Frost, of Arnhem fame.

LETTERS

Write to:
SOLDIER,
Ordnance Road,
Aldershot,
Hants GU11 2DU.

**Swansea
winner**

Mr T P Devonald, of Rhos, Pontardawe, Swansea, wins the £50 top prize for HOAY competition No 487. Runners-up book prizes go to Mr P Highton, of Latham, near Ormskirk, and Mr Graham Day of Devol, Port Glasgow. There's another chance to win £50 on Page 39.

Blackpool was QLR country

YOUR piece "QLR takes over in Blackpool" (May 28) infers that the QLR presence in Blackpool is relatively new, whereas it has been the case for many years. Blackpool is very much part of the QLR area of influence and recruiting, both Regular and TA.

The fact that the ACF

detachment was badged King's Own Royal Border Regiment was, as we understand it, due to the fact that its original parent company was based at Fleetwood, which is by tradition (and the rules) King's Own Royal Border country.

In the old days 5th King's Own (TA) maintained a

company at Fleetwood but this has disappeared since the regiment's centre of gravity (TA anyway) moved into Cumbria following one of the many post-war reorganisations. – **Col John Bird, Regimental HQ, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, Fulwood Barracks, Preston.**

Shilling wasn't special

MY father enlisted in 1915; I joined in 1918. In effect we had received the King's Shilling because pay was one shilling a day. Some men did receive a shilling and had to sign for it – it was the coin of the realm.

The Victorian shilling that Mr Weaver (May 28) received was a specially-minted commemorative. His security officer must have demonstrated some initiative in obtaining a few to boost his enrolment campaign. – **George Hogan, 4 Orchard Way, Guiseley, Yorks.**

Cut to the corps by these plans

WITH the news (SOLDIER, May 14) that it is intended to condense the many small corps into something reasonable, I hope the Ministry of Defence applies a little common sense to the reorganisation. I would suggest the following:

RAOC, REME and RPC to become the Royal Ordnance and Artificer Corps; RMP, MPSC, Army Legal Corps and Intelligence Corps to become the Royal Provost Corps; Royal

Corps of Transport to become the Royal Waggoners; RAPC, RAEC and ACC to become the Royal Army Service Corps (including Field Battery and Butchery, Staff Clerks, Mobile Laundry, Postal Service); RAMC, RADC and RAVC to

become the Royal Medical and Veterinary Corps.

The following, which deserve their individual status, should be left alone: Royal Army Chaplains Department, Army Physical Training Staff (delete Corps), Small Arms School (delete Corps), QARANC and WRAC. And leave the so-called Adjutant-General's/Quartermaster Corps to the foreign armies. – **W A West, 18 Cunliffe Street, Eageley, Stockport, Cheshire.**

Reunions

● **National Ex-Prisoner of War Association** annual reunion, Warner's Holiday Camp, Hayling Island, Hants, November 2-5. For details send SAE to Charles Jago, Reunion Secretary, 74 Norfolk Road, West Harnham, Salisbury, Wilts.

● **Grenadier Guards Association** Shropshire Branch Regimental Band Concert, Telford, October 26; Reunion Dinner Dance for former members of First Battalion, Nantwich, October 27. Proceeds to Regimental Funds, Army Benevolent Fund and British Legion. Details from President/Secretary, Maj R Woodfield, 26

Salcombe Drive, London Road, Shrewsbury SY2 6SH (tel: 0743-63688).

● **Staffordshire Regiment** annual reunion, Saturday September 8 at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs WS14 9PY (SAE for details please).

● **Grenadier Drummers Call 1990:** All former Drummers and other Musicians who have served with the Grenadier Guards will be welcomed at the Grenadier Day at Pirbright on July 8. Details from Rod Baker, Fossebank, 8 Church Lane, Gomersal, Cleckheaton BD19 4QQ (tel: 0274-861270).

BEF's cup of cheer

FIFTY years on, may I tell you the story of my mother, who was a young refugee on the roads of France in May, 1940.

Unable to reach Dunkirk, she stayed in Rennes, Brittany, for a week. One morning, British soldiers occupying a factory nearby departed, leaving behind food, water and

other supplies, including tea.

After the capitulation of France my mother returned to Belgium with boxes of English tea from Rennes which she still has – a fitting souvenir of British soldiers, who were very kind to children. – **Kenneth J Heselwood, Bouilliot St 2, B-1060 Brussels, Belgium.**

MOBB

by Mouse



RAOC still on schedule to break world record

TRANSWORLD Venture, the RAOC bid to break the record for driving round the world, was last reported ahead of schedule with a possibility of making the 25,000 miles journey in less than 50 days. They are trying to beat the existing record of 59 days.

This is despite trouble with a support vehicle in Turkey, when a shampoo bottle was used to temporarily repair a blown cooling system header tank and an unexplained 16 mph speed limit imposed by Greek police for a 144-mile leg which took

nine hours. The teams, one male and one female, are driving Rover 827Si saloons. From Italy they drove to Frankfurt and later flew to Australia which they crossed in five days. The Los Angeles-Miami leg was followed by a flight to Rio.

New SAS strike vehicle unveiled

TALK of the British Army Equipment Exhibition was the inclusion of the Special Air Service's latest fighting acquisition, the Longline LSV (Light Strike Vehicle) which has been in service with the Hereford-based 22nd SAS Regiment for the past 18 months.

The highly mobile vehicle (fully laden it can reach speeds in excess of 100kph over rough terrain) was specially designed and built for military operations conducted in hostile environments where a stealthy approach and rapid exit are necessary.

It came into being after manufacturers Longline Limited of West Sussex were approached by the SAS with the concept of this exceptional fighting vehicle. During its development stage, a number of changes to specification were carried out following extensive trials of the prototype on a variety of terrains, both in the UK and overseas.

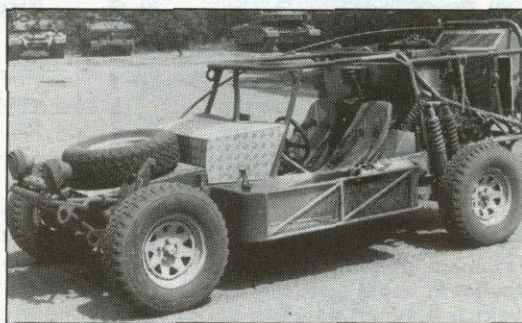
Many of the major components are duplicated for reliability and to provide a "get-you-home" capability in the event of damage - a point proved when the LSV's air drop capability was tested from the back of a Hercules C130 aircraft.

Two of the three parachutes failed to open and one of the vehicle's rear wheels was smashed during the subsequent heavy landing. But the crew was able to drive it back on just three wheels.

In its reconnaissance role, the LSV is capable of conducting short-range opera-



Cpl Dave Sudlow and Tpr Ian Coles of QDG negotiating the rope crossing during the obstacle run which the British team won



The Longline LSV on show at BAEE 90

tions out to 200km. It has been designed to accommodate the very latest in satellite navigation and communications equipment.

As a weapon platform, the LSV can mount a variety of fits including a GPMG, twin Browning machine guns, a 40mm M19 grenade launcher or Milan Stinger missiles. The SAS has six LSVs in service and another 20 on order.

The SAS are also using Longline's innovative general weapon mount which has a unique single handle control. Designed for use on land or at sea, it is said to combine maximum accuracy with immediate response.

● A full report on the biennial BAEE 90 at Pegasus Village, near Aldershot, will appear in the next issue.

QDG fifth in Boeselager competition

DESPITE winning two of the eight events, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards were placed fifth overall in the international Boeselager Trophy competition for light armoured recce units at Ebern in Bavaria.

The QDG team finished more than a minute ahead of their nearest rivals in the cross country and hand grenade event, and by two seconds edged out the West German team in the swim under combat conditions.

Overall winners were the men of West Germany's 4th Tank Regiment, with the US Army second, Turkey third, Denmark fourth and the Wolfenbüttel-based QDG fifth with their Spartan recce vehicles.

Teams from Italy, Spain, Canada, the Netherlands, France and Belgium also took part.

Other QDG positions were: recce patrol, 9th; recce patrol fighting on foot, 18th; enemy identification, 4th; small arms firing, 6th; combat vehicle driving, 6th; and co-operation with aviation forces, 15th.

Sappers' snow challenge

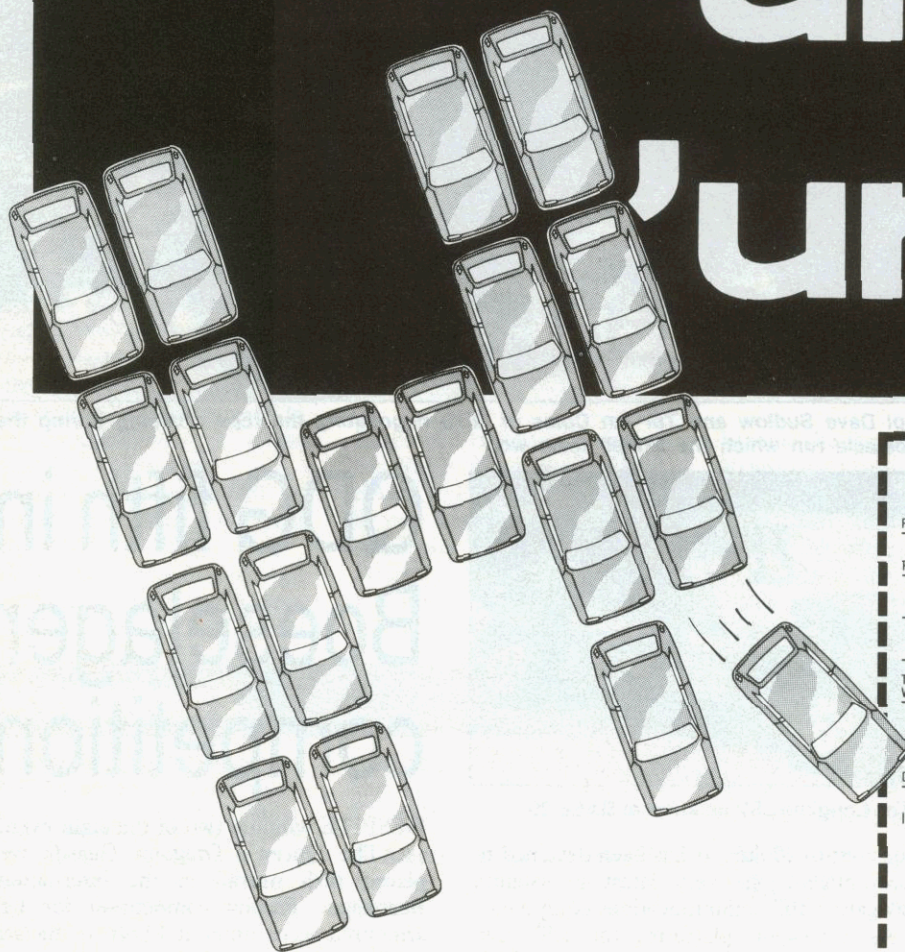
A TEAM of 12 from the Junior Leaders Regiment RE met with more snow than expected during an expedition to Mt Tharpu Chuli in West Nepal and settled on Annapurna base camp as their objective.

Minister marks EOD anniversary

DEFENCE Secretary Mr Tom King visited 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) to mark the 50th anniversary of Royal Engineers involvement in bomb disposal. The regiment is a direct descendant of the wartime units formed in

1940 and raised to a strength of 10,000 in a few months. Until recently the regiment consisted of seven squadrons, four of which were TA. In 1988, however, the TA squadrons transferred to the resurrected 101 (London) Engr Regt (EOD) (V).

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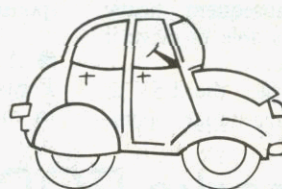
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Top pistol marksman murdered

MAJ Mike Dillon-Lee, who was murdered by the IRA in West Germany, was one of the Army's top pistol shots and had represented both the Army and Combined Services at national level. Maj Dillon-Lee commanded Headquarters Battery of 32 Heavy Regiment RA. He first won the Army pistol championship in 1975. Two months ago he

tied for first place in the Army open pistol competition but was placed second after a shoot-off.

Maj Dillon-Lee was married with two sons.

Pte William Robert Davies (19), from Pontarddulais, West Glamorgan, who died after a gun attack at Lichfield railway

station, was also a fine sportsman. He was in training at the Depot of the Prince of Wales's Division at Lichfield and was to join The Royal Regiment of Wales.

Sgt Charles Chapman, killed by a car bomb near his recruiting office in Wembley in London, was buried with full military honours at Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham.

'George Cross' award

THE Medaglia Al Valor Civile – the Italian equivalent of the George Cross – has been awarded to the late Brig Russell Maynard, Royal Signals, who died rescuing six children from a treacherous sea off Fregene, Italy in July 1988.



The medal was presented to his widow, Mrs Marguerite Maynard, by the Italian Ambassador, Signor Boris Biancheri, at a ceremony at the Embassy.

Brig Maynard and a Danish officer who took part in the rescue died of exhaustion from their efforts though all the children in distress were saved. He and his family had been spending the day at the seaside.



Two birthday boys took part in the Ypres Marches this year. One, Pte Mark Halsey of D Coy 1 Wessex (based at Bournemouth) celebrated his 21st. CSM William McGawan, of A Coy 2 Wessex, was 42 on the same day. The Ypres marches are not an endurance test but more of a tribute to the memory of the British soldiers who died there during the First World War. The mood is reflected by the "boogy box" being carried by a 2 Wessex squad pictured above – it played marching songs.



Maj Bill McDonald, 2IC of 6 RRF, leads the battalion through Alnwick

Bands strike up in Kiev

FOUR Army bands played at the British Trade Exhibition in Kiev this month. They were the Pipes and Drums of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the 4th Royal Tank Regiment; the Duke of Kent's Royal Regiment of Fusiliers' band and the Corps of Drums of the 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

During the five-day trip the bandmen performed at the exhibition, Beat Retreat and entertained at official functions.

Northumberland Fusiliers on move

THE Regimental Headquarters (Northumberland) of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers has moved from Fenham Barracks, Newcastle on Tyne, to Alnwick, where it is co-located with the headquarters of the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion.

The new RHQ was opened by the Duke of Northumberland, Honorary Colonel of

the 6th, at one of two St George's Day parades held in the county.

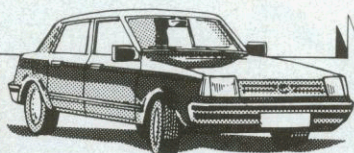
The other was held at Ashington where the salute was taken by Maj Gen (Retd) Roger St John, a former CO of the 1st Battalion The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, and Coun Chris Buglass, of Wansbeck District Council.

The right medicine

A FOUR-man ACC team from 152 (Ulster) Ambulance Regiment (Volunteers) has won the TA field cookery competition.

They beat an ACC team from 103 Air Defence Regiment, RA, (Volunteers), which recruits in the north-west, into second place. Third place went to 232 Transport Squadron RCT (Volunteers) from Plymouth.

Financial Service to the Services

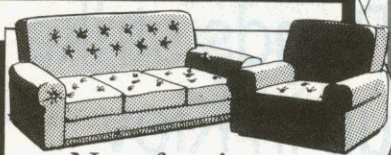


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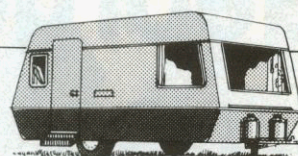


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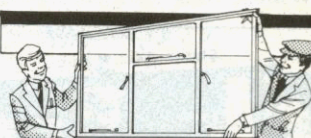
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Picture: Mike Perring

Maj Gen Bob Cook, Signal Officer in Chief, takes the salute at the formation parade marking the integration of 250 (Gurkha) Signal Squadron into 30th Signal Regiment at Blandford, Dorset. The 50-strong squadron is the first to be integrated into a British regiment and the Gurkhas will serve alongside their British counterparts. To the right of the dais is the adjutant of 30 Sig Regt, Capt Philippa Owens

Eastern farewell for DERR

AFTER two and a half years in the Far East, the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) bade farewell to Hong Kong with a stirring Beating of Retreat on the quayside at HMS Tamar, the British Forces base.

Following a display by the battalion's Band and Corps of Drums, the Colours were marched up the gangway of HMS *Plover*, the senior ship of the Hong Kong Squadron, as a symbolic act of departure.

Taking the salute was Maj Gen Derek Crabtree, the Colonel of the Regiment, who was Deputy Commander British Forces in Hong Kong at the time the Prince of Wales Building, the present HQ, was opened ten years ago.

The official farewell was held a month before 1 DERR was due to hand over as British resident battalion to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales. The men of 1 DERR were spending the last weeks of their posting on a last company exercise in Hawaii, a mortar concentration in New Zealand (see Page 29) and preparations for the handover.

The battalion is due to move to Catterick in August.



Musical machine gunner and instrument

Rangers strike deadly note

THE Band, Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, struck a useful note when they turned their hand to

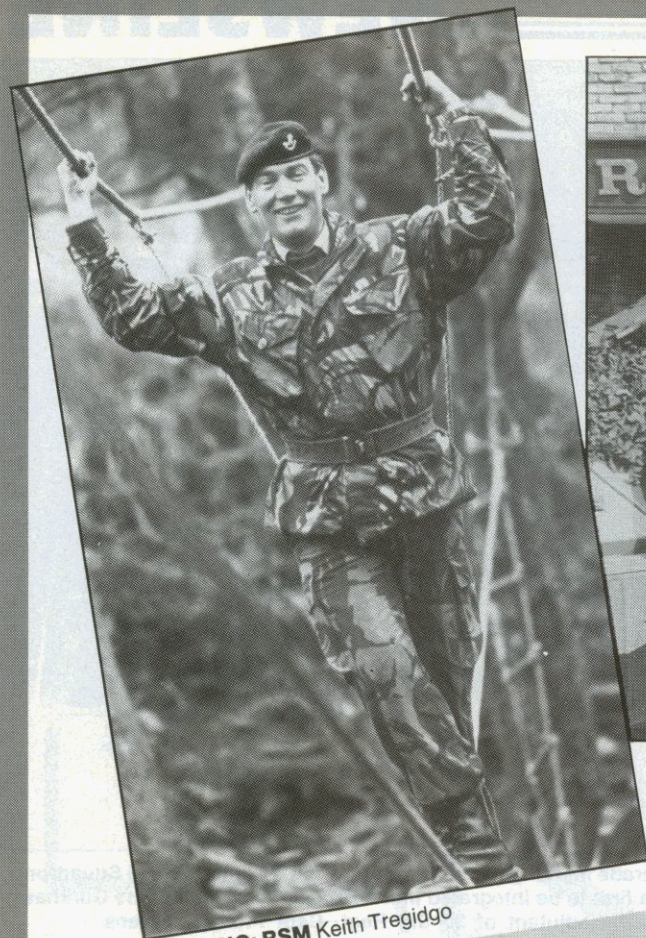
Airmen are top reserves

WINNERS of the Reserve Forces Association international military skills competition at Holcombe Moor were 1620 Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment, followed by 4th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

that deadly instrument the General Purpose Machine Gun.

Trained in the sustained fire role, they produced a platoon which at BATUS last year was laying down accurate "beaten zones" out to 2.5 km using map-predicted methods of fire control.

This year they have been named as BAOR champions and received the BAOR Machine Gun Trophy from Brig Dick Mundell, Brigadier Infantry, at a ceremony at Sennelager.



RETIRING: RSM Keith Tregidgo

Over and out

Crossing the bridge back to civvy street after 25 years service is RSM **Keith Tregidgo**, who served with The Light Infantry in Aden, Northern Ireland, Belize, Berlin, Canada, Denmark and the Falklands. His last job was with the TA's 7th (Durham) Battalion, The Light Infantry, and the Burma bridge he is crossing was one of a series of obstacles he helped set up in Kielder Forest, Northumberland, for the Executive Stretch series of exercises.



The Rev **Syd Willcox** demonstrates his agility on the famous Krypton Factor assault course at Holcombe Moor training centre. He comes from

Vaulting vicar...

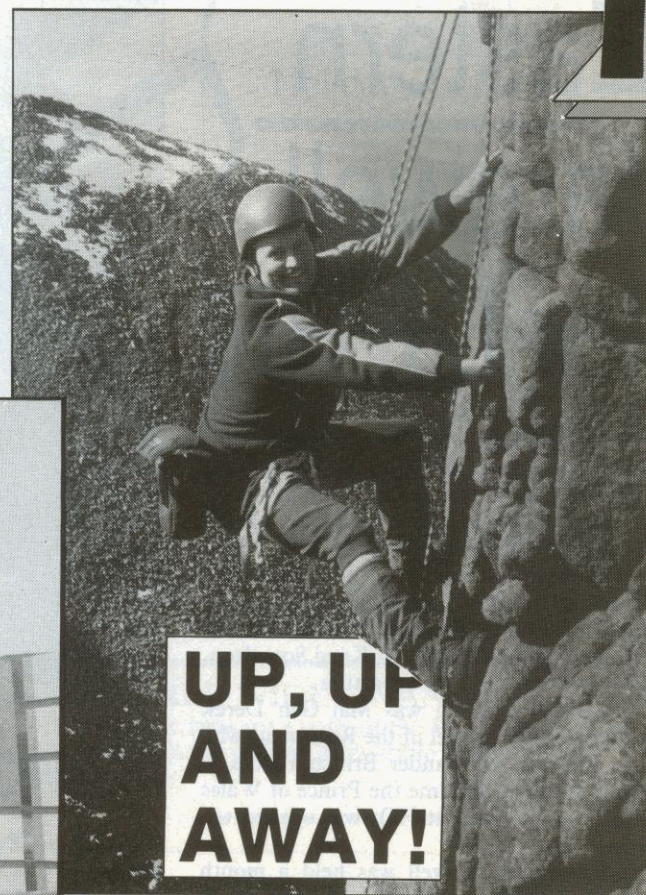
Cockermouth and was one of seven North-West based Territorial Army chaplains to be put through their paces on the assault course.



Sgt **Billy Brown** from Manchester-based 75 Engineer Regiment presents *Coronation Street* actor **Charles Lawson** with a Royal Engineers plaque. Charles is leaving the "Street" after playing the part of ex-soldier Jim MacDonald. The Territorial Army

Street-wise sappers

sappers arrived in front of the famous Rovers Return in a Ferret and Land Rover.



UP, UP AND AWAY!

Getting a grip on his work is Army photographer WO2 **Stuart Andrew** RAOC, pictured here in Scotland during training for a joint military-civilian expedition to Bolivia's highest mountain, Sajama. Stuart is based with the Army Air Corps at Middle Wallop. The expedition, led by Maj **Chris Brightman**, serving at Bulford, Wilts, will also carry out acclimatization research in a remote area on the Chilean frontier.



HAMMINKELN RETURN: Glider pilot David Brook (left) and Dickie Sweet, the mortar officer

A tribute to the Ulsters

Men from Osnabrück-based 1 R Irish took part in a commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the Rhine crossing, and in particular the part played by the glider-borne 1st Battalion, The Royal Ulster Rifles, in securing a bridgehead on the River Issel east of Hamminkeln.

Guests at the ceremony included **Dickie Sweet**, the Ulsters' mortar officer in Operation Varsity, and glider pilot **David Brook**. Wreaths were laid at Reichswald Commonwealth War Graves cemetery where 83 Ulsters lie, many of them casualties of March 24, 1945.

Recruit of note

From nursing the pipes to nursing the patients... **Jane Cunningham** has switched uniforms from the kilt and sporran of the North Berwick Pipe Band to the grey jacket and skirt and crimson piping of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

As a piper with the band, Jane travelled widely in Scotland and the United States. Now enlisting at the age of 17 as a student nurse in the QAs and winning the Best Recruit trophy after initial training at Aldershot she has begun 18 months' nursing at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, to be followed by 18 months at Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot.



PEOPLE



Say cheese...

Smiling for the camera are unit photographers from the 1st Armoured Division who attended a course organised by Public Information, HQ 1 Armd Div at

Osnabrück. The Service snappers were given an insight into press photography and guidance on how they can improve unit coverage of events.

Now hear this!

The Mayor of Hereford, Councillor **John Newman**, gets an earful as buglers from the 5th (Shropshire and Herefordshire) Battalion, The Light Infantry (Volunteers) celebrate the presentation of two new silver bugles by Hereford City Council. The city's association with the volunteers dates back to 1795. The buglers are Cpl **Tom Jerry** (left) and Sgt **Don Somers**.

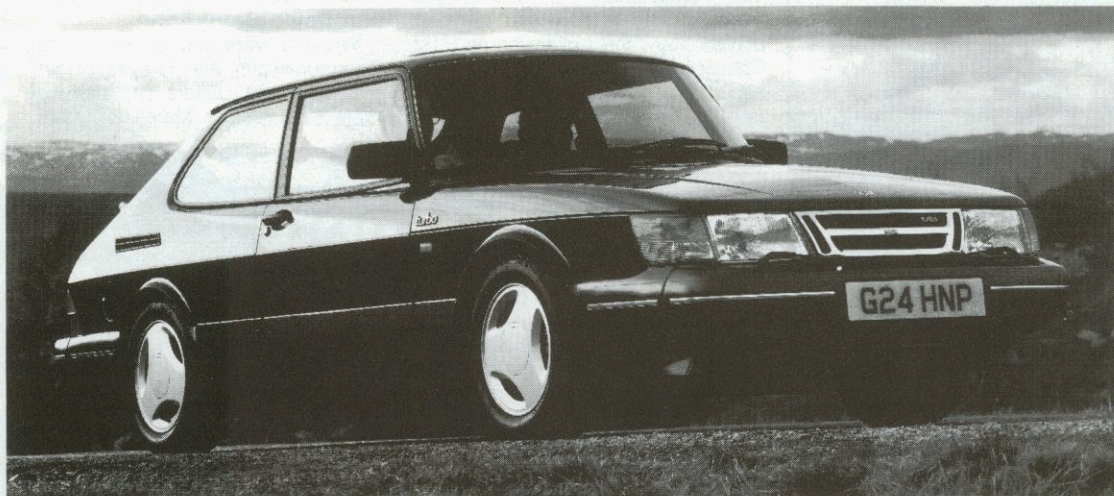


Within a week of taking up her staff officer's post in Cyprus, Capt **Carole Mansbridge** WRAC met the man she was to marry, Capt **Stephen Mansbridge**, adjutant of the 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards. As SO3 Pers (Army) at British Forces HQ, Carole is in charge of discipline on the Mediterranean island. She is due to move to London in the autumn to be 2iC Army Admin at Hounslow.

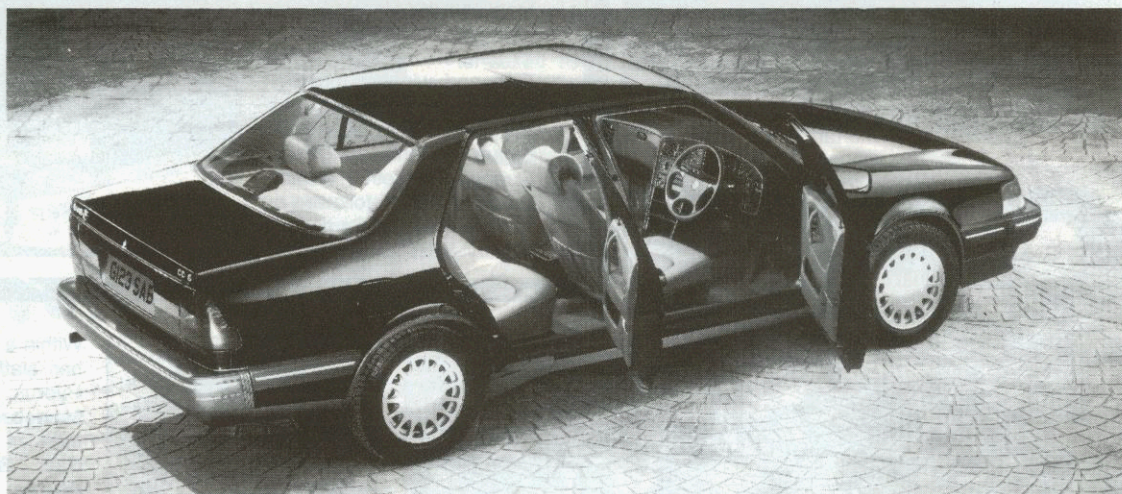


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Tribute to Sword gunners

Omission of the gunners from a monument erected two years ago at Caen to commemorate the infantry and armoured regiments of the 3rd British Infantry Division has been rectified.

Gunners who helped to storm Sword Beach at Hermanville with the 3rd Division 46 years ago have had their contribution to the success of D-Day recorded on a plaque attached to the commemorative column at Hermanville.

The plaque was unveiled on June 5, eve of the 46 anniversary of D-Day, by the Master Gunner, Gen Sir Martin Farndale. Man behind the idea was Maj Gen Sir Nigel Tapp, who was a colonel in command of 7th Field Regiment at the time of the invasion.

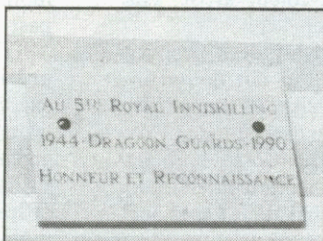
And the French town of Bourneville in Brotonne has honoured the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards by adding the regiment's name to the town's civilian war memorial.

The Skins were part of the 7th Armoured Division which fought its way from Normandy to the Kiel Canal. They lost six men dead and ten wounded at Bourneville on August 26-27, 1944 as the German Army fought a desperate rearguard action to hold the Seine crossings.

On May 8, 56 members of



British veterans march through the town of Mouscron in Belgium



Skins' plaque in Bourneville

the Regimental Association gathered at Bourneville to commemorate the 45th anniversary of VE Day and to see the unveiling of the addition to the town memorial. In the party were 23 who had taken part in the liberation of the town.

Bren carrier memorial

An action in which three young privates died in May 1940 has been commemorated by the unveiling of a Bren gun carrier as a memorial to the BEF in Mouscron, Belgium, on the border with France.

British troops were defending a position against enemy infantry when they came under pressure.

Carriers were sent to reinforce the line and one inflicted heavy casualties before it was hit by an anti-tank gun and disabled. The driver was killed instantly but Ptes Brian Waring and Horace Roberts of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (now absorbed into the Royal Anglian Regiment) leaped out and continued to

fight until killed. The incident took place in the parish of Risquons-Tout (Risk All).

British veterans took part in the unveiling ceremony which was also attended by Maj Paul Watton RMP, invited as an official Army representative.

The train just arriving . . .

Latest addition to the Museum of Army Transport at Beverley, Yorkshire is the personal railway saloon of Fd Marshal Lord Kitchener.

The eight-wheeled non-bogie carriage was built in Birmingham in 1885 for service in the Sudan. After the fall of Khartoum much of the

British bandsmen knew the ropes

The professionalism, precision and polish of a massed bands display to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the defence of Calais underscored the British Army's reputation for military ceremonial . . . and calmness in a crisis.

Thousands of people turned out for the spectacular in the Place D'Armes, Calais, unaware that a behind-the-scenes hiccup could have spoiled the party.

French officials had roped off the parade area, ideal for confining spectators but leaving no gap for the bands to march on!

The situation was resolved by an unflappable Capt Don Duncan, assistant project officer, 2nd Battalion, The Royal

Green Jackets, who had arrived early to check last-minute details.

He explained: "We had to create a new entrance on a different side from the original plan. But the bands took it in their stride and none of the spectators was any the wiser."

● See centre pages

Gunners at Gallipoli

Gunners from Hohné-based 38 (Serangapatam) Field Battery of 40 Field Regiment RA played a part in the ceremonies which marked the 75th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings.

Their presence at the memorial service at Cape Helles was a tribute to the part played at Gallipoli by 90th Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, predecessors of 38 Bty.

During the service the gunners acted as wreath orderlies and sentries.

Views expressed in SOLDIER are not necessarily those of the Army or the Ministry of Defence.

First in
the field
in both
world wars

THE British Second Army had four corps – I, VIII, XII and XXX – in Germany at the end of the war. After about a year they were reorganised into three military districts with regional commissioners replacing the corps commanders who had been acting as military governors. The second British Army of the Rhine – the first had been

formed after the 1918 Armistice – replaced 21st Army Group on Saturday, August 25, 1945. Field Marshal Montgomery remained in command until he became Chief of the Imperial General Staff the following year. The 1st (British) Corps was re-formed in 1951. The badge of a white spearhead on a scarlet diamond relates to its role in the First and

Second World Wars. In 1914 it was the only permanent corps in the United Kingdom – having the 1st and 2nd Divisions under command at Aldershot. It was the spearhead of the BEF in 1939, withdrawing via Dunkirk and returning to France on D-Day 1944 with the 3rd British and 3rd Canadian Divisions under command.

Man behind the spearhead



PINNING down the Commander 1 (British) Corps isn't easy. Lt Gen Sir Charles Guthrie is a highly mobile senior officer.

He was spending a rare afternoon in the office at his HQ in Bielefeld, though judging by his dress and business-like boots he had already been out and about.

The room was uncluttered, the only eye-catcher being the greeny-gold Dragon Colour of the Prince of Wales's Company

Welsh Guards which he once commanded. The general was going on leave the next day and taking his "paint box" with him – he's an amateur water-colour artist. His desk was clear. It often is.

"If I'm stuck behind my desk pushing paper at people I feel I'm not doing my job," he said. "I have a chief of staff I trust and he runs my headquarters for me. My task is to command the Corps and get round to subordinate commanders and soldiers and find out what their views and problems are."

He is "not frightened of paper" but clearly has seen enough of it as a former Chief of Staff 1 (BR) Corps, as Assistant Chief of the General Staff and other appointments in the Ministry of Defence.

But he has also had his share of excitement since he was commissioned 31 years ago.

His service as a troop and squadron commander in the 22nd Special Air Service Regiment took him to Aden, the Gulf, Malaysia and one or two other hot spots.

Some years after he returned to his regiment he was CO of the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in a period during which they completed a tour of Northern Ireland.

Today he commands a formation which in peacetime contains more than 50,000 soldiers and may be expanded to twice the size should the need arise.

Lt Gen Guthrie: "We are much better equipped for armoured warfare and mobility and much more hard-hitting than in the past. We can get around our area of responsibility much faster than in the old days – the influence of the helicopter has been of great significance."

To be effective, elements of such a fast-moving formation equipped with sophisticated weapons need training of the highest standard. In the prevailing climate in Europe with sensitive environmental

issues, this raises problems.

"To be realistic I don't think we are going to see many more of the very large scale exercises of the past involving 100,000 and more troops.

"That doesn't worry me too much, provided we continue to run smaller exercises and I can find the right way to train myself and my senior commanders and our staffs.

"It is just as important that we senior officers are trained as it is to train the most junior soldiers.

"In our case this can be achieved by many kinds of war game and in this respect the United States leads the way.

"Here in Germany and in the US they exercise divisional, corps and even army headquarters in operational war games. I am anxious that we should develop that field as quickly as possible."

The first big stride in that direction will be made by 1 (BR) Corps this year.

Two of the divisions will fight the other two in a command post exercise. HQs will move . . . but not great bodies of vehicles or troops.

"The exercise will be conducted

largely by computer. It is a pretty unforgiving way of testing people. If the computer says you are out of ammunition and you are about to launch an attack, that attack will never get going.

"Sometimes in the past that situation has been glossed over."

The Corps Commander dealt frankly with the conflict arising from the need to train soldiers while retaining the goodwill of the local population.

"When you move large numbers of men and vehicles about the countryside to fight your battle, not surprisingly civilian lives are disrupted – though we take every step to limit damage and annoyance.

"Germany is very urbanised, about 20 per cent of it is built-up, and it also has a

Lt Gen Sir Charles Guthrie

The **SOLDIER** Interview



Lt Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, commander 1 (British) corps

Versatile – that's the secret of 1990s soldier

On the British Soldier in 1990, Lt Gen Guthrie had this to say: "Perhaps his greatest strength is his adaptability. Moving round the world under our regimental system as we do may disrupt some aspects of life (he himself is married with two sons) but it makes the soldier very versatile."

Though he was naturally concerned about the need for retention he recognised that people today tended to be more mobile where jobs were involved.

"Twenty or 30 years ago they might join a firm or organisation with the intention of staying there for life. That doesn't happen very often these days – if at all.

"I accept that everyone is different – in the Army as well as outside. People want to remain in a job or leave it for their own personal reasons.

"In the Army it is the commanding officers, company commanders, junior officers and troop and platoon sergeants who have to deal with this problem among soldiers they know so well.

"What I can do to help is to try to create an atmosphere where the regimental system has some latitude for 'fine tuning'."

by Bill Moore

sophisticated infrastructure.

"The introduction of lasers and weapons effect simulators on a large scale was a path we had to take but this still meant moving troops across the countryside.

"I think if we make our exercises smaller than the population has been used to they will be more acceptable."

The possibility of extending the use of the facilities made available by the Canadians at Suffield, Alberta, had been considered.

The battle group concept required that all arms should learn to work together – armour, artillery, infantry, sappers, helicopters and the logistic and signals

elements. Increased range of weapons and speed and range of tanks demanded space.

Seven battle groups a year went to Suffield – a high percentage of the Corps – but:

"The weather on the prairie is extreme and in winter bitterly cold. So cold that training becomes more of a survival exercise. Nevertheless, we are looking at the possibilities."

He shed some light on the recent change in the name of the final all arms exercise at Suffield from Alamein to Gazala (fought in the Western Desert in midsummer 1942 and resulting in the retreat to the Alamein position.)

"It may not have been one of the

greatest successes of the British Army but it was a battle which brought forth a number of lessons."

Learning these lessons is still a necessary part of soldiering in an army which Commander 1st (British) Corps says must be "ready for any eventuality".

It is not always appreciated that Lt Gen Guthrie is the British Army's senior *field* commander:

"I am actually commanding an operational field HQ . . . a field formation designed for operations unlike BAOR, which is a theatre HQ, or the Ministry of Defence.

"In BAOR I have a superior HQ which protects me and looks after my interests in such a way that I can do the job I'm meant to do – command the Corps."



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The trumpeters of 1 RHA are in big demand. From left to right are Gnr Chris Doogue, Bdr Brian Kemp, Sgt Rod Jefferies, Bdr Mark Spring, Gnr Colin Hewitt, and, in the background, Gnr Adam Houchin

Right men for the job

... that's
BAOR's 1 RHA

IT's nice to know where you stand in this man's Army and Sgt Robert Hansford knows his place exactly.

If the British Army of the Rhine was lined up on parade with all its guns present it would stretch for 20 miles and Sgt Hansford would be the right-hand man.

The 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (Lt Col Brendan Lambe) is the senior regiment in BAOR, the Chestnut Troop is the senior battery and as the No 1 of A sub-selection, he would be on the right of the regimental line on the right of the Army.

There are, of course, people who would say such things don't matter.

Others take the view that the rich threads of tradition and precedence bind a unique fabric woven over the centuries.

The Chestnut Troop, for example, will be celebrating its 200th anniversary in 1993 and – thanks to tradition – its original commander will be there.

Sir Hew Dalrymple Ross, who commanded what was then A Troop RHA at Waterloo – curiously on the

left of a gun line of 12 artillery units – is a permanent resident of the officers' mess of 1 RHA in the shape of a silver bust.

And wherever the troop goes he goes too . . . the responsibility of a junior officer.

Not so long ago, when the regiment was ordered to Northern Ireland, the custodian of the bust was met by a senior Royal Air Force officer and a red carpet was unrolled.

The RAF was living up to its reputation for observing protocol.

Someone had noticed that Field Marshal Ross was on the passenger list but nobody mentioned he was travelling in a box in the possession of a lieutenant.

So the story goes . . . and there are those who will swear by it. Indeed, some insist that they were the officer involved.

The RHA was formed in 1793 as a sub-division of the Royal Artillery armed with

light guns and howitzers.

All its gunners were mounted and, with their horses, were an integral part of their unit.

In other artillery batteries and brigades some gunners rode on the caissons and the drivers were attached personnel.

The RHA was organised in troops lettered alphabetically (but frequently referred to by the names of their commanders).

Thus during the Peninsular War, A Troop was known as Ross's Troop and its more familiar name arose from the colour of the horses used to pull its six-pounders.

The Duke of Wellington gave the title his blessing after Waterloo and King Edward VII confirmed it by Royal Warrant in 1902.

The modern 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery was formed just before the war by amalgamating A (The Chestnut Troop) and E Batteries, and B and O Batteries.

A MATTER OF PRIDE –

The first British artillery round of the First World War was fired by D sub section of E Battery RHA on August 22, 1914 near Bray. The original cartridge case is still in the possession of the battery. It also has a 13-pounder identical to the one that fired the shot – the original being held by the Imperial War Museum. It is used for ceremonial purposes.

RSM's got 'em buttoned up

AN intriguing plaque hangs on the office wall of the RSM of 1 RHA, WO1 Trevor Beswick. A gleaming hammer and a bicycle pump mounted on a piece of oak are labelled "RA Conversion Kit".

Under the hammer are the words: "You will need this when you leave."

Under the pump: "You will need this when you return."

The explanation lies in the pride taken in forming part of an elite regiment. Men sent to it from training or other units do not become "Horse Gunners" by virtue of their posting order. They have to prove themselves.

They arrive with the familiar Royal Artillery gun and crown cap badge with conventional flat brass buttons on their No 2 dress.

Not until they have passed a week-long regimental course



WO1 Trevor Beswick, the RSM, and his unusual Royal Artillery conversion kit



and know the history of their batteries – each of which has its own "history room" – are they considered eligible to wear the distinguishing features of the RHA.

These are the Cipher worn on berets and collars and the "ball" buttons on Service, No 2

and dress uniform. Each man receives his Cipher and two collar dogs from the CO at a passing-out parade. Jackets then go to the tailors' shop where Frau Christa Kohle and Frau Edith Hopner sew on the buttons.

When a man is posted out of

the regiment he is no longer entitled to wear the ball buttons.

Thus when RSM Beswick left 1 RHA, in which he has done most of his 21 years of soldiering, he replaced his ball buttons with flatties (hence the hammer).



The much-travelled bust of Field Marshal Sir Hew Dairymple Ross

The right men

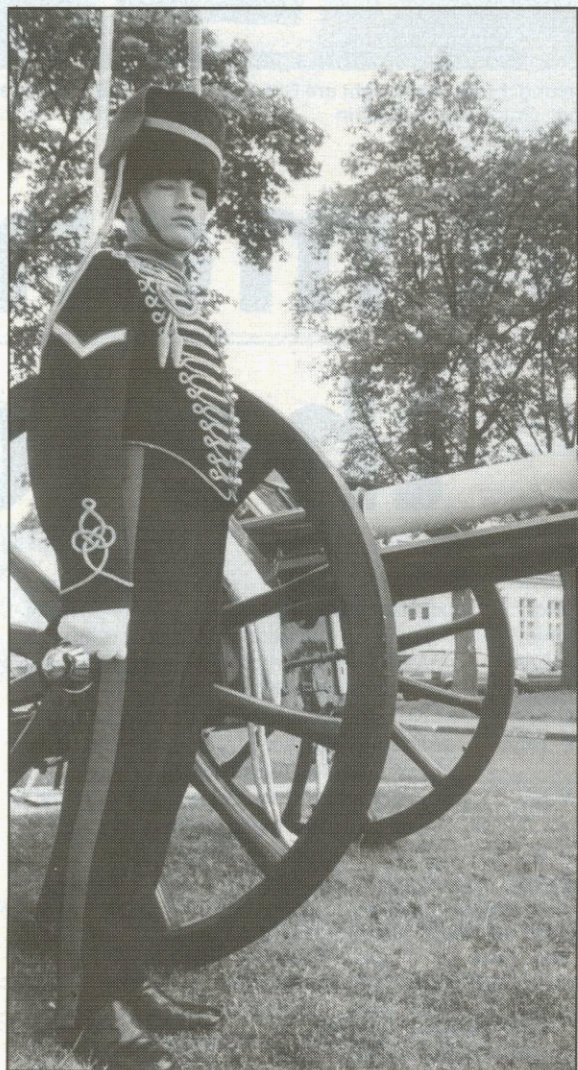
● From Page 17

Horses had given way to mechanical transport in the late 30s.

The amalgamated regiment fought in France in 1940 and at Tobruk during the siege of 1941. It was reorganised in its present form early in 1942 and has remained so ever since.

Currently it is equipped with 105mm Abbot self-propelled guns maintaining the link with the Priest (also 105mm) and the Sexton (25 pounder) of the later years of the Second World War.

Hohne Garrison – near the ranges in North Germany – has been its station since 1982 though elements frequently join exercises outside the country, notably at the British Army Training Unit in Alberta, Canada.



LBdr Deryck Gladwin shows off the dress uniform of the regiment beside a 13-pdr field gun similar to the one which fired the first British shot of the First World War. According to folklore every piece of the uniform has a useful function, including the brass band holding the plume. It can be pressed into service as a standby wedding ring...

Regiment can blow its own trumpet

A banqueting hall in Sheffield rang recently to seven different fanfares sounded by smart soldiers in the dress uniforms of 1 RHA.

They had been invited to welcome Princess Anne at the Master Cutlers Feast – the city having close connections with the Chestnut Troop which recruits there.

The trumpeters are one of the most valuable public manifestations of 1 RHA, not least because all are genuine volunteers.

The idea came from Sgt Rod Jefferies who has spent 22 years in the Army and was a trumpeter with the Junior Leaders' Regiment RHA at Bramcote in 1968.

Since he had his brainwave seven years ago the number of trumpeters has grown to nine, including himself.

All have "proper" jobs to do – in an observation or command post, as gun numbers or in HQ Battery.



Above – Helping out with the uniform is LCpl Michele Dack WRAC, who is serving with 1 RHA as a clerk. Right – Frau Christa Kohle sews on the ball buttons every Horse Gunner is proud to wear



A 1 RHA Abbot firing on the range at Suffield, Canada

But they still find time to practise and turn out spick and span in uniforms reminiscent of the last century.

They are in great demand for regimental and garrison functions, Remembrance Day parades and weddings.

Sgt Jefferies, who works in the QM stores, took SOLDIER into what resembled a Victorian guardroom... braided tunics hung in a row, there were spurs, riding boots, and sabres for the Regimental Sword Guard.

Amazingly he said of his trumpeters: "No prior musical knowledge is needed."

And what of the trumpeters

in the old days?

"The BC's (battery commander's) trumpeter would sound all the calls – walk... trot... gallop or charge.

"When the guns came into action the trumpeters became the BC's horse-holder and took his charger into cover.

"He had to bring it up when needed... knowing that if he allowed it to be killed the BC would take his horse."

Sgt Jefferies went over the traditions associated with the dress uniform – but he doesn't vouch for them.

The busby could be used as a nosebag, the buttons as spare musket balls, the red strip



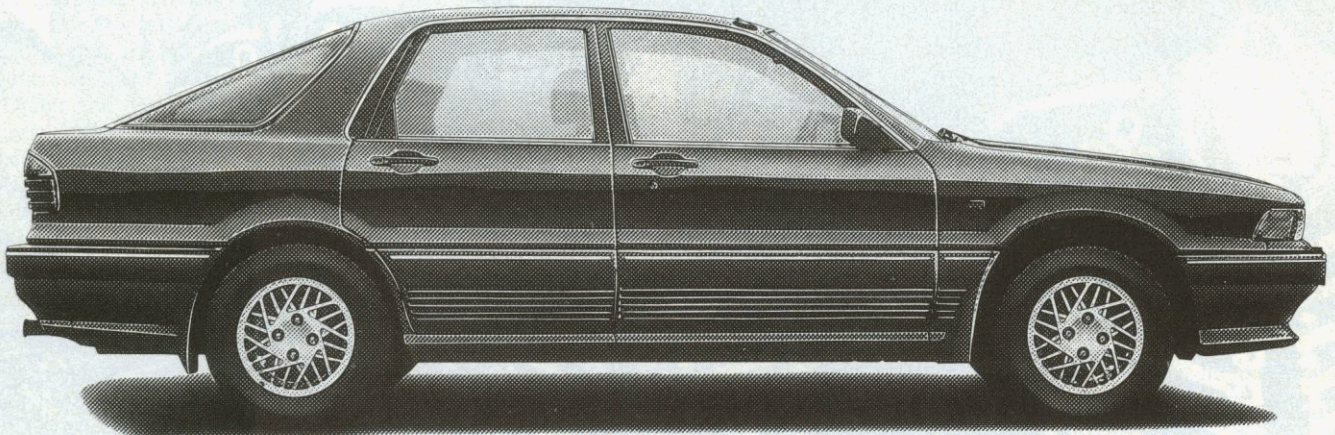
down the trousers as bandages and the braid as spare reins.

The bag hanging from the top of the busby might contain despatches and the plume could be used as a shaving brush

while the brass band holding the plume could be pressed into service as a wedding ring.

Horse Gunners have always had a reputation for winning hearts!

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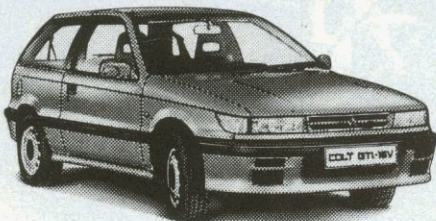
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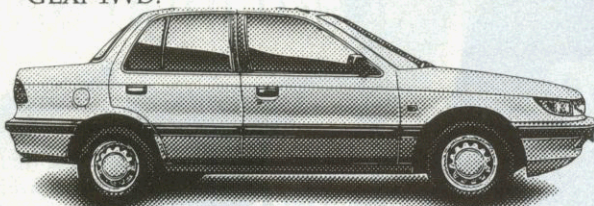


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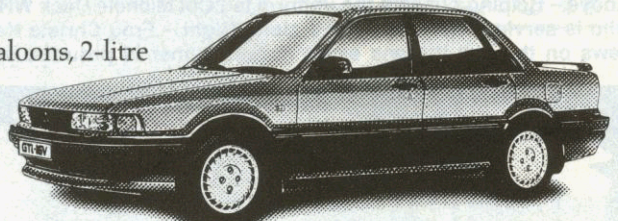
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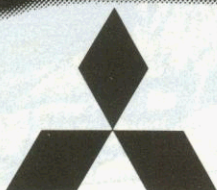
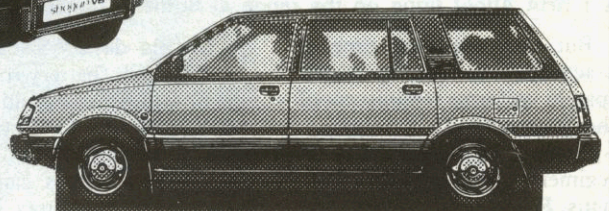


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HIGH RISERS FROM SEK KONG

PROVIDING vital air movement support in Hong Kong is 660 Squadron Army Air Corps based at Sek Kong airfield in the New Territories.

Commanded by Maj Peter Roberts AAC, the unit is split into two elements, a Hong Kong-based squadron equipped with eight Scout helicopters and a detached flight of three Scouts in Brunei.

Role of the Hong Kong squadron is to provide operational support for British Forces Hong Kong and joint military/police internal security operations, and non-operational support for all military personnel in the Territory.

The Squadron's C Flight operates out of Seria in Brunei, giving support to the resident Gurkha battalion and the Army's training establishment located there.

The rugged and reliable Scout helicopter has been in continuous service with the British Army for more than 25 years and has proved itself more than capable of carrying out all tasks required within the squadron's role.

Reliability is vital, for the topography of the area, with hills up to 3,500ft in the New Territories and urban areas, makes flying an arduous task, particularly during emergencies as there are few suitable landing sites among the peaks.

Maintenance plays a large part in keeping the squadron's helicopters airworthy and is

carried out by the REME light aid detachment. Indeed, REME personnel make up more than 50 per cent of the squadron's strength.

The detachment takes on both flexible and scheduled servicing of aircraft, and all

major component changes can be carried out in the squadron's hangars.

Understandably, the border with China commands much of 660 Squadron's attention. Frequent early-morning aerial sweeps of the border area are flown to check for illegal immigrants (IIs). Other border sorties are flown as required, either in support of the border battalion or to take personnel

on border recce or familiarisation flights.

One particular area of estuary is a familiar sight to pilots and aircrew, for illegal immigrants who swim across the shallow waters frequently find themselves trapped by the glutinous mudbanks.

When this happens, crews hover over the victim and lower a specially-adapted landing net

● Turn to next page

High rise buildings are a routine hazard for Hong Kong-based 660 Squadron pilots

**Words by
Laurie Manton
Pictures by
Mike Perring**



A crew operating in the New Territories gets a spectacular view of a giant Buddha statue from a Scout helicopter

All in a day's work...

PILOTS and aircrew of 660 Squadron AAC often face the unexpected. The case of Sgt Steve Price is just one example.

Sgt Price and aircrewman SSgt Ian Todd recently flew a training sortie that involved carrying out deck landings on the Royal Navy frigate HMS *Minerva*.

During this operation, the Joint Air Tasking Cell (JATC) requested that Sgt Price stand by to lift a compassionate case from HMS *Bristol*, a guided missile destroyer operating nearby. The Lynx helicopter on board *Minerva* was grounded for technical reasons and could not be used.

Because of the ship's configuration, Steve had to carry out a cross-deck landing when he arrived over the *Bristol*. After picking up the passenger, Sgt Price was



Maj Peter Roberts (left), OC of 660 Squadron, discusses flight plans with Lt Laurence Linskey

informed that a serious accident had occurred on *Bristol*, and that he should drop his passenger in Hong Kong and await instructions.

He informed JATC that owing to the delay and sea state, they might consider tasking a winch-equipped Wessex helicopter for the operation.

This turned out not to be possible.

The casualty had serious chest injuries, required constant medical attention, and could not be flown above 500ft.

Sgt Price calculated that, owing to aircraft weight and the requirement to carry both

● Turn to Page 29

Sek Kong's high risers

● From Page 21

into which the II can clamber and be airlifted to an area of comparative safety – and the waiting arms of the nearest border battalion infantry stick!

All squadron personnel, whether pilot, technician, groundcrew or clerk, are required to complete mandatory training in military skills.

In addition, AAC units pride themselves on maintaining competence in infantry tactics and survival techniques.

When SOLDIER visited 660 Squadron, most of its men were heavily involved in Ground Eagle, an exercise designed to test infantry skills in the hilly Sai Kung area of Hong Kong.

They were divided into fighting bricks and steered from incident to incident by directing staff. Tasks involved aggressive patrols and ambush, defending crashed aircraft sites, observation and section attacks, capture of prisoners, navigation and survival training.

They aren't half cramped for space!

IF operating space for helicopters flying at Sek Kong seems a little cramped, that's because the base is only half the place it once was. And all because the Army airmen now have some unusual neighbours.

Explained the squadron's Admin Officer, Capt Peter Williams: "When I arrived 18 months ago, there was a perfectly serviceable runway which ran the whole length of

the airfield. Then, suddenly, it was cut in half when a Vietnamese boat people camp was built to accommodate upwards of 7,000.

"When they moved in, all fixed wing flying had to be stopped, but we are managing to hang on to the bottom end so we can actually fly our helicopters."

The squadron has no responsibility for the security of

the boat people camp, but keeps a close eye on its helicopters standing nearby.

"Certainly, for us, there was slight cause for concern because we have aircraft out there and we didn't know if any of the camp's inhabitants could fly!"

Had the squadron received any complaints from their new neighbours about the noise levels created by helicopter operations?

"We do avoid flying over the camp, and our pilots use a special circuit that has been designed to keep helicopters away," he said.

"Obviously, there has to be a certain amount of noise. After all, it is a helicopter base and we do have to fly in and out, but we stick to the rules and don't overfly the camp. I haven't heard of any formal complaints."

Busy B Flight will get it done

THE MEN of B Flight, encompassing the motor transport section and AAC ground crew element of 660 Squadron, have a lot on their plates.

In charge is Sgt Andy Pepper. His unit carries out normal driving duties within the squadron, and regularly shares the task of moving other garrison units around the area with the adjacent 50 Hong Kong Workshop.

"Heat is a problem. It takes a long time to adjust to," said Sgt Pepper.

"Working on the dispersal area on aircraft is terrible. Sek Kong lies in a natural bowl, mostly surrounded by high peaks. Consequently the maximum temperatures of around 34 degrees recorded in Hong Kong are frequently exceeded here.

"During the months of July, August and September it gets really hot and we refer to a heat stress index that is designed to protect the men. When it reaches black, we have to limit the work being done to compensate for it," he said.

The flight also have a number of locally-employed personnel (LEPs), four trained drivers and a lance corporal from the Hong Kong Military Service Corps.

"I now have them refuelling the helicopters," said Sgt Pepper.

"Except for the Falklands where RAO personnel do the refuelling, it is rare for non-AAC badged troops to carry out this task. They have



Air Troopers Jamie Fergusson (left) and Scouse Cotter ensure quality control of fuel by checking for water content

done very well and are keen and able workers."

"We also provide local aircrewmembers, a practice unique to Hong Kong. Cpl Kevin Allen and Cpl Gary Taylor are currently working as aircrew on the Scouts."

The flight also has to provide two junior NCOs on six-month tours with C Flight in Brunei.

If all that is not enough to place on B Flight's plate, they share the running of the mother-and-child runabout service with 50 Hong Kong Workshop.

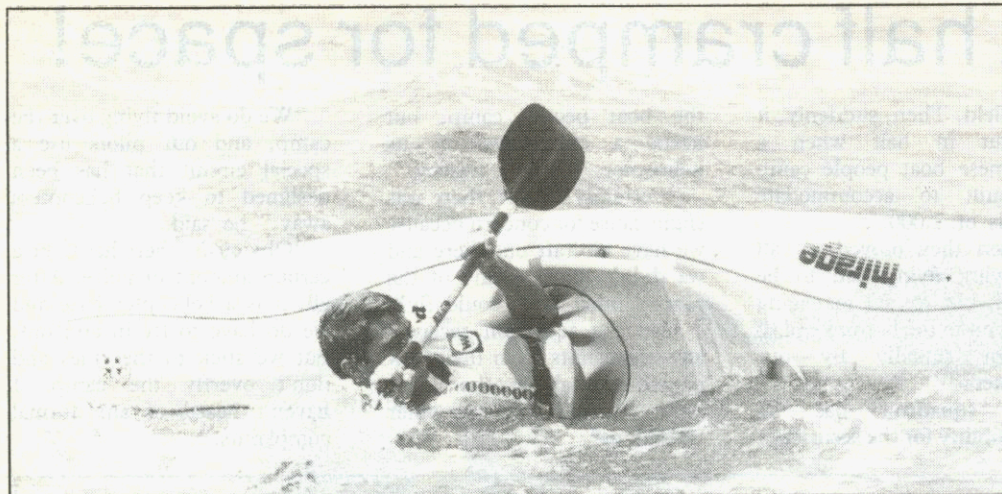
This was introduced to make life easier for Service families quartered in an isolated area far from the airfield.

Plans are in hand to introduce a minibus service to get the families to and from the pool in Sek Kong, where the swimming classes are held, and to give the wives a chance to get to the main Naafi for essential shopping.

They would otherwise face a hefty return taxi fare.



Sgt Andy Pepper (top) and Cpl Gerry Watchus fit out a 4-ton truck for internal security operations



Adventurous training – Cyprus style. Green Howards get to grips with canoeing and abseiling



Just warming up!



Green Howards exercise in Cyprus

THERE was an extra incentive for the lads of B Company, 1st Battalion The Green Howards as they "hit the beaches" of Cyprus for four weeks of battle exercises and adventurous training on Exercise Lion Sun.

For 12 keen foot-sloggers, eager to prove their stamina and endurance, there was the prospect of being selected for the battalion team entering the Nijmegen marches. The team's training is all under the eagle eye of SSgt Mickey Tarmey APTC who will put them through their paces in a bid to complete the gruelling 100-mile course over four days in July for the honour of the regiment.

Nearly 120 Green Howards completed Lion Sun 1 – the first of 19 units in this year's annual quota for sunshine training. Members of B Company, under the command of Maj Nick Houghton, escaped the variable weather of North Yorkshire – where they are currently deployed as part of 24 Air Mobile Brigade at Catterick Garrison – for some serious battle training, beach attacks, live firing and range work.

But promises of adventurous training, water sports, beach pursuits and sunbathing were doubtless an added bonus.

The Mobile News Team

Above – Water-way to cool down. Below – The attack on Evdimou Beach heats up



Words: Capt Chris Robinson
Pictures: Sgt Dave Miles

And when all the hard work was done, there were always other sunshine island attractions to distract weary limbs

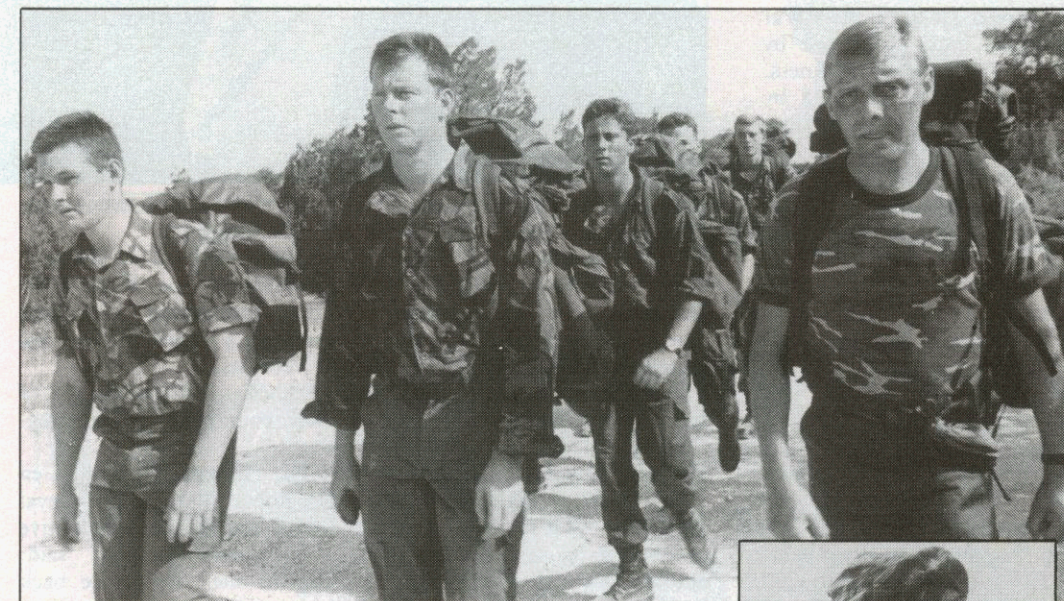
from UKLF caught up with the Green Howards on Evdimou Beach where an attack was under way. In support was a detachment of armoured vehicles from the resident 17/21st Lancers and a Ramp Craft Logistic (RCL) from 417 Maritime Troop RCT based at the Mole in RAF Akrotiri.

Over the next couple of days the Green Howards took part in dinghy sailing, canoeing and windsurfing at Tunnel Beach, Episkopi – all organised and taught by qualified instructors from within the company.

"Canoeing is perfect here," said LCpl Chris Smithson. "You don't mind getting totally soaked in this sunshine!"

And in the hills above Paphos Sgt John Howard took a number of lads rock climbing. John, who is an abseiling supervisor (he climbed Mount Kenya's Point Lenana in 1980) said: "It's a gut feeling with me, getting to the top and looking down fills me with a real sense of achievement."

In addition to all the military action there were the beaches, the local shops, the tavernas and the night life – if the Green



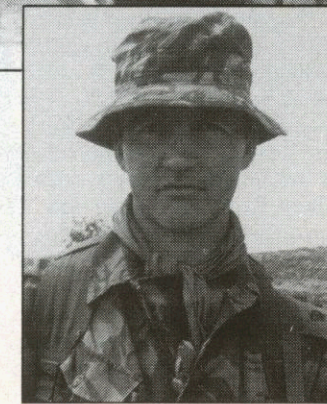
Above – Nijmegen hopefuls on the march. Right – Maj Nick Houghton, officer commanding B Coy

Howards had any energy left!

They were also able to travel around the island during the training, with some range firing at Dhekelia and live firing on the Pyla ranges, followed in quick succession by a visit to the paradise sunspot of Ayia Napa Beach.

Maj Houghton commented

that his lads had got a lot out of the exercise. Meanwhile SSgt Tarmey continued to "beast" his hopefuls for the Nijmegen team. For the marchers, weary after the dusty track and determined slog, there was instant consolation in the form of cold beer and a bask in the Mediterranean sunshine.



Return to Calais

1940 veterans
pay homage

RESIDENTS of Calais turned out in their thousands to show how 50 years on they had not forgotten the sacrifice made by Britain during the gallant defence of their town early in the Second World War.

For three frantic days in May 1940 battalions of the King's Royal Rifle Corps, Rifle Brigade, Queen Victoria Rifles and Royal Tank Regiment held at bay two armoured divisions which otherwise would have turned against the British Expeditionary Force at Dunkirk.

To commemorate the anniversary, a parade and service at the Calais Mole, near The Green Jackets' Calais War Memorial, was conducted by the Ven James Harkness, Chaplain General, assisted by the Very Rev Richard Wingfield Digby, Chaplain to the Rifle Brigade in 1940.

It was attended by about 650 past and present Green Jackets and their relatives. The Duke of Gloucester, whose father unveiled the RGJ memorial in 1951, inspected the parade and took the salute.

Veterans from the 2nd Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps (now 2 RGJ), 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade (now 3 RGJ), 1st Battalion Queen Victoria Rifles (now 4(V) RGJ), 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Army Service Corps, 229 Searchlight Battery, and Royal Marines were on parade.

Guard of honour was drawn from Regular and volunteer RGJ battalions, France's 402 Artillery Regiment, and HMS *Alacrity*, which is affiliated to the RGJ and was alongside at Calais.

Standard bearers were from the Royal British Legion and Dunkirk Veterans Association. The service was followed by a

reception given by the Mayor of Calais, and there was an evening reception on the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship, *Sir Bedivere*, loaned to accommodate soldiers taking part in the anniversary.

In the afternoon a massed band display was given by the Peninsula Band, based with 2 RGJ in Dover, Salamanca Band, based at Light Division Depot, 3 RTR from BAOR, and buglers from 1 and 2 RGJ and the Depot. It was attended by thousands of French people.

As a boy, Henri Revisse, now president of the Calais Chamber of Commerce, witnessed street fighting in the town. His family gave food to British soldiers and had to abandon their home after it was set alight by a grenade.

He said: "Today went beautifully. I am delighted so many people of Calais turned out. Everyone is very happy to

prove to our British friends that we do remember."

Field Marshal Lord Bramall, president of the Royal Rifle Corps Association, said there had been a wonderful turn-out of veterans.

"They upheld the honour of their country and their regiment."

The Adjutant General, Gen Sir Robert Pascoe, the Royal Green Jackets Representative Colonel Commandant, said: "Unlike me, they come back with memories of what happened 50 years ago when they lost a lot of good friends and comrades. It showed great determination to overcome sadness and make the effort to return."

Among the veterans was Bill Hedges, who, standing ramrod straight and 6ft 1in tall, cut an unforgettable figure in his Chelsea pensioner uniform. He is, unbelievably, 80 years old,

but claims he is only 75 because of five years lost as a German POW.

He was a QVR sergeant, and recalled that his company, holding Bastion Two, a Napoleonic fort, planned to make their way to the beaches to be picked up by the Royal Navy.

But because of the closeness of the Germans who could have prevented their escape, the commanding officer suggested the company commander should get a volunteer sergeant and a dozen soldiers to fight a rearguard action while the others escaped.

Bill explained: "I stood up and the commander asked if I was his volunteer sergeant. I told him I was his only bloody sergeant left."

"My commander asked me if he should get some volunteers. But, to a man, everyone stood up and said he was coming back

with me. It was magnificent. These men were giving up the chance of getting off the beaches. That was one of the most gratifying moments of my life."

Frank Perry, now 70, served with Bill. Later, under fire and determined not to be taken prisoner, he swam two miles around the coast and was eventually rescued by a torpedo boat.

He said: "The heroes were those who died, not us. We were the lucky ones."

The Calais visit brought about a first reunion for Arthur Tucker and Ernie Heywood, who became pals in hospital after being wounded in action. Arthur, later taken prisoner, recalled an unexpected kindness from a German guard who gave him a silver pocket watch for his 21st birthday. "I had to trade it in for food, which I still bitterly regret."



Above – Veterans of the 1st Battalion Queen Victoria Rifles, led by Chelsea Pensioner Bill Hedges (front left), march away from HMS *Alacrity*

Inset above – OCA Standards are lowered during the memorial service

Left – Veterans of the 2nd Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps with Brig Gris Davies-Scourfield, a former platoon commander, who escorted the Duke of Gloucester when he inspected the old comrades

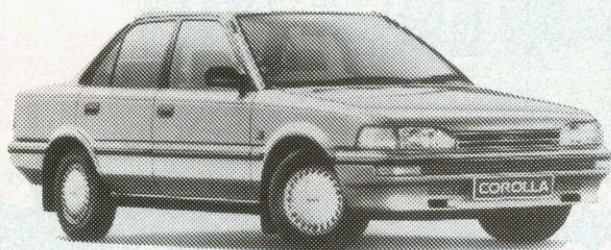
Right – Harry Lake, formerly of the King's Royal Rifle Corps, paid a special tribute to fallen comrades when he played the Last Post at a Calais cemetery

Below – Soldiers from a French infantry battalion make up part of the guard



Words by
Jennifer Griffiths
Pictures by
Mike Weston

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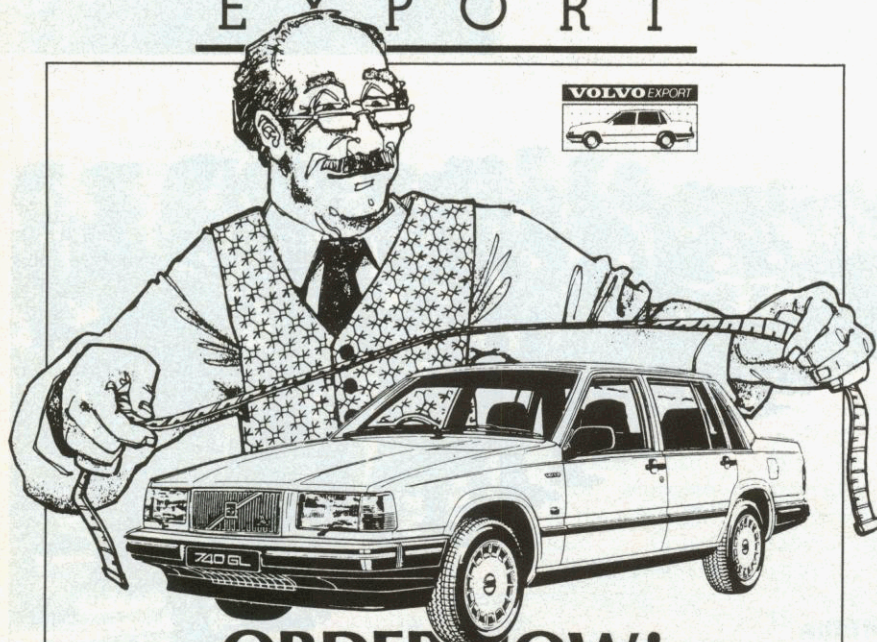
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Bracing stuff

Hong Kong mortars feel the chill in New Zealand

ICE in the shaving water and frozen toothpaste may be little more than minor irritations when you are used to exercising in Norway. Service in Hong Kong, however, is no preparation for refrigerated ablutions, **writes Robert Higson.**

More than 300 British, Gurkha and Chinese troops from the Hong Kong Garrison discovered that when they moved straight from the steamy heat of spring in South China to live under canvas in the considerably more bracing conditions of late autumn in New Zealand.

They were taking part in a new and very much more challenging version of Exercise Crossed Belt, Hong Kong's annual mortar concentration.

This was the first time the exercise has been released from the strict limits on mortar firing in the Colony and let loose on the wide open spaces of the New Zealand Army's main training ground at Waiouru in the centre of the North Island.

Lt Col Duncan Briggs, CO of 6 QEO Gurkha Rifles, and a one-time mortar instructor at the Small Arms Wing, Netheravon, reckoned it was the most complex and realistic live firing his battalion's mortar platoon has undertaken since the Indonesian Confrontation in Borneo more than 20 years ago.

Col Briggs was on hand to watch his men start the series of three-day fire and movement exercises known as Sari Bair, the name of a ridge in Gallipoli which was the scene of some notable fighting in 1916 involving three of the units represented at Waiouru.

Commemoration of the Gallipoli campaign remains a very important national occasion in Australia and New Zealand. So it was fitting that the modern descendants of British and Gurkha troops who fought there should have been on parade for the Anzac Day dawn service in Waiouru this year.

Contingents from Hong Kong's resident British battalion, 1st Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment – whose connection with Gallipoli is via



the old Wiltshire Regiment – from 6 GR, and from the currently Brunei-based 10 PMO GR, lined up in the pre-dawn darkness with units of the New Zealand Army.

Mortar platoons from three other units made up the concentration – two from the two Regular battalions of the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment and one from 7 DEO Gurkha Rifles.

With a training officer and



Above – Dry firing drill for a 1 DERR mortar team with part-time soldiers from the regiment's affiliated New Zealand territorial battalion, 7 RNZIW, behind them
Left – Smoko time (that's Kiwi for tea break!) for, from left, Ptes Matthew Grimes and Danny Jones of 1 DERR, LCpl Tony Makarini, NZ RCT, and Rfn Baliram Ale, 7 GR

direction 180 degrees to engage a supposed *coup de main* in the rear.

Canoeing, rock climbing, abseiling, and orienteering were all readily available under the auspices of the New Zealand Army Adventurous Training Centre at Waiouru. Maj Eddie Bright, a former Royal Green Jacket who runs the centre, used his contacts to arrange what proved to be the most popular activity of all – rafting the roaring white waters of the nearby Rangitikei River.

On top of all this there was six days R and R for everyone – a chance to try other aspects of this remarkable country such as deer stalking or game fishing or visiting the snow-capped peaks of the Southern Alps.

With so much activity available, a soothing session in one of the hot thermal pools around Lake Taupo to the north of Waiouru became a much sought-after means of relaxation.

Rescue was all in a day's work

● From Page 22

casualty and medic, the task could only be completed if he flew without his aircrewman. SSgt Todd was "ditched" and Sgt Price set course for the ship, now 25 miles out to sea.

He was picked up on the ship's radar 12 miles out and

directed towards the ship to complete a solo cross-deck landing.

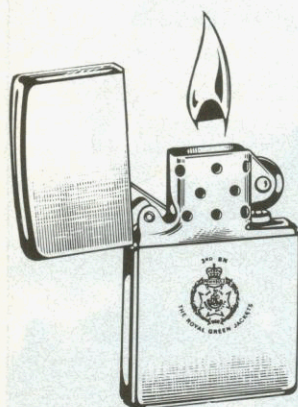
The stretcher would not fit into the rear of the Scout and rather than cause any more delay, Sgt Price authorised the aircraft's rear door to be jettisoned.

The casualty was successfully casevaced to the British Military Hospital at Kowloon.

It was a sortie that demonstrated a high standard of flying skill, quick thinking and initiative. But for Sgt Steve Price of 660 Squadron AAC, it was just another job.

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CRACKING GOOD SHOTS!

PWO on target – again

A NINE-strong team from the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire based in Catterick outgunned Regular and Territorial Army soldiers to sweep the board for the third year running at the North East District Skill at Arms meeting, staged on moorland ranges above Catterick.

In addition to 17 cups and trophies the 80 teams taking part were trying for places in national, Regular and Territorial competitions at Bisley.

The 1 PWO team, led by WO2 Brian Kelly, included Lt Tom Wagstaff, CSgt Paul Astbury, Cpl Bryan Hunter, LCpl Andy Lavelle and Ptes Lee Green, Steve Bingley, Ray Dixon and Garry Larkin.

Pte Bingley won the top Regular individual honours and LCpl David Fenwick of the 7th



A happy 1 PWO team. Front – WO2 Brian Kelly; middle – LCpl Andy Lavelle, Pte Ray Dixon, Cpl Bryan Hunter, CSgt Paul Astbury; back – Pte Steve Bingley, Pte Lee Green, Pte Gary Larkin, Lt Tom Wagstaff

(Durham) Battalion, The Light Infantry, took the TA trophy and with Sgt Paul Blaney was runner up in the machine gun competition.

The Home Service Force team from 300 Squadron RCT

at Leconfield won 40 silver tankards and three trophies.

The team, whose members have logged up more than 181 years of Regular and Reserve Forces service between them, were on target to claim the title

of best TA team, top TA inter-company rifle team and top HSF team.

Led by Sgt Bob Ferguson, an engineering supervisor from Beverley, the team also won the top HSF trophy.



Sgt Paul Blaney and LCpl David Fenwick of 7 (Durham) LI, who were in the prizes at Catterick

Movers on the range

BIRDWOOD Barracks at Bunde was recently cleared of its resident Transport Regiment for three days of shooting at Sennelager.

Victory eventually went to 74

Sqn. The selected regimental team went on to dominate the 1st Armoured Division Skill at Arms meet. Victories included the Divisional team champions, rifle and SMG team champions.

Anglian 'A Team' head for Bisley

FOR the second year in succession 6 R Anglian outshot all opposition to take the first three team positions at the Eastern District TA Skill At Arms meeting held at Colchester.

A Company based in Norwich again won the prestigious Essex County Shield, with HQ Company from Bury St Edmunds second and B Company based in Bedford third.

Along the way the "A Team" beat 27 other teams to take the TA championship. Battalion teams won five matches and six individual trophies plus many runner-up spots.

This was the first time that Home Service Force personnel had also taken part, with both E and F Coys of the battalion firing in selected events.

Lt Col Peter Dixon, CO of 6 R Anglian, said: "To come

first, second and third for one year is great – to do it two years running is something else and reflects all the hard work and preparation put in by the teams. Of course we will be trying next year for three in a row, but in the meantime we will be concentrating on Bisley and trying to repeat our win of 1988."

A seven-man team from the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester, are the Eastern District Regular Unit champions.

All members of the Military Provost Staff Corps, the team picked up three individual trophies and two team awards on their way to winning the prestigious Challenge Trophy.

Team captain WO2 Frank Walker said: "It was a great result, we put a lot of effort into this and the lads all shot well on the day."

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FIRST into the Battle Group Trainer at Catterick when it opened, men of the 1st Battalion, 51st Highland Volunteers have now been the first into the Army's new FIBUA village on Salisbury Plain. **Gordon Skilling** has been watching them in action against 6th/7th Queens.

And try not to die on the lawn!

'FIGHT DIRTY' is what soldiers are re-learning in the Army's new training village at Copehill Down on Salisbury Plain, where 87 purpose-built "houses" give an unrivalled opportunity to indulge in some realistic urban fighting.

Lessons from Monte Cassino or Goch near the Reichswald have largely disappeared into history books and dusty files, and today's soldiers have little practical experience of how nasty it can be and how horrendous the casualties.

Vague memories linger, however, of bitter fighting by the 51st Highland Division, when Black Watch and Gordons came under fire from the rear after they had passed houses in the SS stronghold of Goch early in 1945.

The 1st Battalion of the spiritual descendants of 51 Highland, the 51st Highland Volunteers, had an unusual amount of experience knocking about when they became the first unit to defend the new £8m village, with several permanent staff instructors and their colonel recently returned from a tour in Berlin with the Black Watch.

"We had considered Ruhleben Fighting City in Berlin to be special," explains Lt Col Richard Nunneley, "but this is really challenging and is just what the TA need for tough, realistic training."

LCpl Geoff Hetherington of the London Scottish (G) Company agrees. "FIBUA is intense and exciting and exhausting when it happens. Of course, we spent a good time preparing the defences then sitting about waiting on stag.

"One minute it started and

the next it was all over - except it wasn't the next minute. It was 2½ hours later and we were all shagged.

"We could see another battle going on over on the other side of the street, no further than 20 yards away, where the Liverpool Scottish were doing their bit.

"We could see it happening, but there was very little we could do to give concrete help until they started trying to come round the corner near us and we could pick them off."

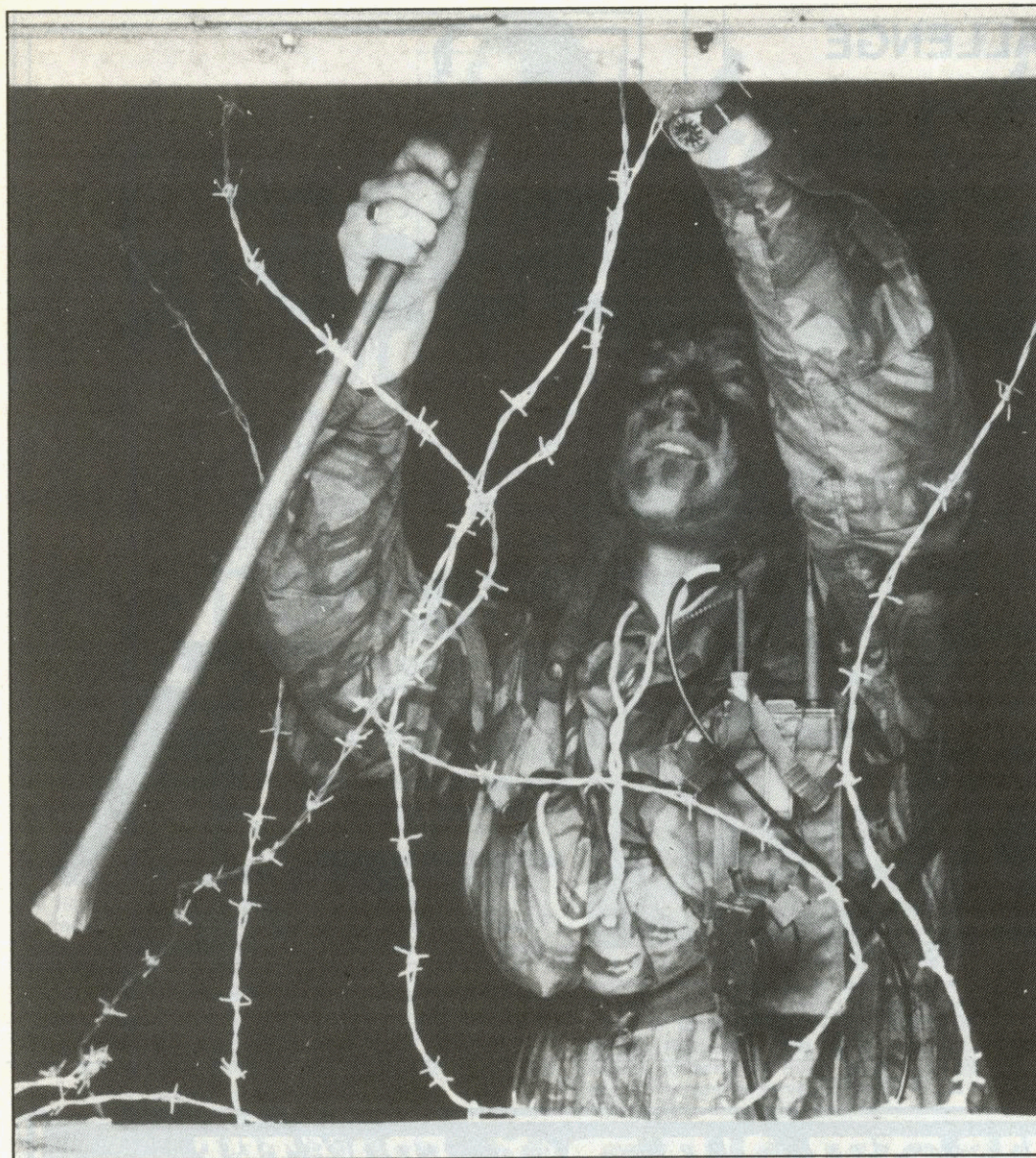
The days of heroic if suicidal frontal charges like the last Soviet surges against the Reichstag should stay in history. If not, attackers will need more than the seven or eight to one expected to be needed to take urban areas.

Providing the controlled attacking force, 6th/7th Queens were understandably miffed at having platoons taken out with ease by, for example, a sustained-fire GPMG from the other side of the village as they crossed a main road to an empty building.

The same thing happened over another open space once the Highlanders had withdrawn. Accurate sniper fire proved an intractable problem.

"Trying not to die on the lawn is one of the great lessons," declared Maj David Smith of 1 Cheshire, who oversees the training village. "If you can get into the building you have a chance. If not, it is quite simple: you're going to die on the lawn."

The rectangles of newly-laid grass were slightly less pristine after the first battle. Assault Pioneers from their HQ in Perth had spent the previous



Every corner conceals a potential ambush

week making the village more user-friendly by removing barbed wire from the top of fences.

With vast quantities of ammunition also being burned up, logistics took on a new importance. Seasoned PSI umpires were seen to blanch as they heard the dreaded "Bang,

bang, you're dead!" The question of casualties has also to be considered carefully. "It is a difficult problem," said Maj Smith.

"Do you move on in attack and leave them undefended, or do you leave valuable men behind to protect them? If your men think they are going to be wounded and left, then perhaps overrun by the enemy and killed, then they are not going to be so willing to continue the fight."

Other than progressive training on individual skills, Maj Smith believes the prerequisite for effective FIBUA training is fitness.

"It is absolutely essential, and not just in the legs, but all-over body fitness. If you aren't fit and don't have ladders and the gear for getting in top windows, you really are up against it.

"Command and control is a nightmare in this battle," he continued. "Once the initial plan has been drawn up, the whole plan can change instantly because you discover something you didn't know before.

"It is up to commanders at the lowest level to use initiative, freedom of thought and action, and to think dirty and be devious to keep the momentum going."

A quick counter-attack by a few men can retake a disproportionate amount of territory; by the same token, a nasty booby trap can also spoil an attacker's plan, as explained by Capt Symon, also of 1 Cheshire.

"You have to learn the art of drawing the enemy into a prepared building - prepared with, for example, a large drum of fuel wrapped round a detonator. It need only take five minutes, but could take out a lot of men."

Such devices need close umpiring. Indeed, the whole complex has to be kept under strict control in those small, smoke-filled rooms. Safety must be paramount, but London Scottish platoon Sgt Tagg Taggart feels umpires were a little overpowering.

"We're all here to learn but I would have preferred it if they had let the guys attacking or

LCpl Geoff Hetherington of 4 Platoon London Scottish "wires up" a house to deter unwelcome guests

defending get on with doing their jobs, making notes, then bring it up at the debrief. This would have been better than stopping and starting all the time.

"Certainly, if they'd let it run more freely, there would have been more cock-ups but the section commanders or platoon sergeants would have seen the result."

CSM Geoff Green, 17 years in the Liverpool Scottish, said: "We ask quite a lot of the lads. We were leaving Liverpool at 10pm then working right through the next 24 hours non-stop, but they have been excellent and all credit to them."

A weekend, however, is not a lot of time to spend in the village. Many of the defenders saw little action because good delaying action by forward platoons stopped the attackers reaching the main killing area before the end of the exercise.

Particularly disappointed was the Quartermaster, Capt H McGarva. He denies hoarding ammunition at the kitchens for a last-ditch sally by cooks, medics, and drivers, but something like this was certainly in his mind.

"From 1992 onward battalions will do a week's battle group training culminating in an exercise with all weapons properly calibrated so that rifles don't take out tanks, which will start at one end of the Plain and go to the other, with the village in the middle," said Lt Col (Retd) Mike Ward, who has been Mr Fibua at UKLF since 1985.

By 1992, there will have been a few additions to the village. Some tombstones will have been claimed.

Where, asked the London Scottish, would they like the famous HD monogram which graced any available surface from Alamein to Northern Germany and earned the Highland Division the nickname "Highway Decorators" (along with "Ladies from Hell" from the First World War)?

An honourable compromise is suggested. They had earlier desisted from daubing the tombstones with "6th/7th Queens" as a suitably nasty welcome to the village, but units instead will be invited to carve their insignia on the headstones as a suitable "in memoriam".

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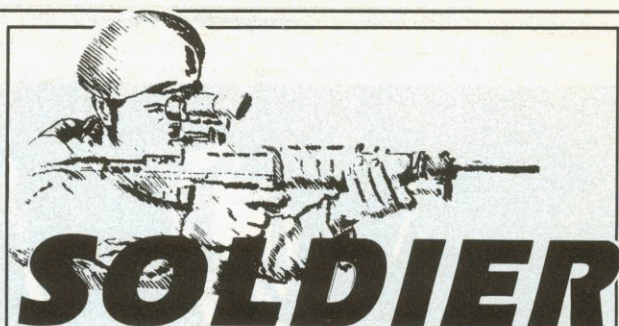
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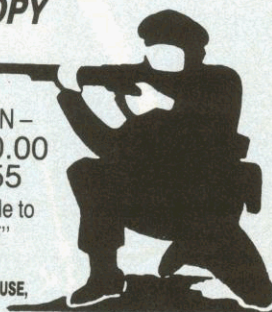
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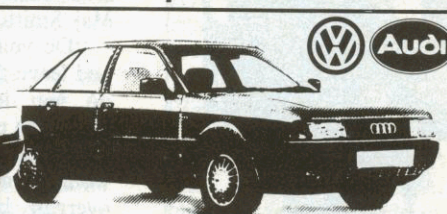


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Right form could save this bother

AN unfortunate episode involving the 18-year-old daughter of Service parents based in West Germany is worth relating in the hope that similar situations may be avoided.

The daughter was living at a boarding school in Scotland, where she was still in full-time education. Her local authority obtained a warrant enabling them to enter her room in order to recover £146 Community Charge allegedly owed.

The girl's mother wrote to me saying she was also having trouble obtaining a Mandatory Grant Award towards a place at a Scottish university. The relevant form had been returned stating the daughter would be classified as an EEC applicant because of the length of time her parents had been in Germany.

Both matters caused daughter and parents much anxiety, although both have now been satisfactorily resolved.

It would have helped if the daughter had had an Army Form 1765 (available from pay offices) showing that Child Benefit was being paid into her father's Service account.

The daughter's school would have registered her as an over-18 pupil, but

she had to prove to the local authority that she was still in full-time education.

The Scottish Education Department allowed the grant after reversing its decision. A spokesman said: "Contrary to our normal rules, the residence of children of members of the Forces posted abroad may be taken in isolation of their parents' current address."

"As Miss X has been attending a boarding school since 1982 she is well within our residence rules."

'Quiet' guild works behind the scenes

THE Guild of St Helena, which for 115 years has worked quietly and unceasingly to create a Christian fellowship for Service personnel and their families, held its annual meeting in the Guards Chapel in Chelsea Barracks, London.

More than 100 representatives from all over the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland and Germany heard the warden, Lady Stibbon, praise the guild's



Mrs Denise Field (left), president of the Lisburn, Northern Ireland branch of the Guild of St Helena, introduces Mrs Dorothy May Sutcliffe from the Royal Cambridge Widows Home to Michelle Fisher and Nicola Bates of the Royal School, Hampstead. The guild supports both home and school (formerly the Royal Soldiers' Daughters' School). Michelle's parents serve in BAOR, Nicola's in Cyprus.

21 branches for their work.

Donations had been sent to the Louise Margaret Hospital baby unit at Aldershot (£500), the Royal Star and Garter Home (£2,000), and the Royal Cambridge Widows Home (£5,600). Service widows who have been "adopted" by various branches of the guild joined members for tea.

The guild also contributed £2,000 to a SCEA scheme to provide free

holidays for children with special needs.

She said her message to members was that they might better identify how the guild could help garrison churches in a practical manner. It was important for members to communicate with chaplains and garrison commanders and their staffs.

After a service led by the Rev Graham Roblen, Deputy Chaplain General, the guild's new president, Lady Howard Dobson, was welcomed.

Details about the organisation are available from the Secretary, Guild of St Helena, Headquarters, Chelsea Barracks, London SW1 8RF (tel: 071-930 4466 ext 4258).

A tights situation

WOMEN in the Services will have noticed that there is to be no increase this year in the allowance for tights and petticoats. And

Charges reflect poll tax

AN officer has written to me pointing out that soldiers living in Married Quarters overseas are paying more in comparison with officers than they were last year.

One comparison of accommodation, facilities and the water charge showed the officer paying £1.22 less than he had in 1989-90, while the soldier was paying 21p more.

I asked the MoD for an explanation and was told:

"The Community Charge has now been introduced in England, Wales and Scotland. It is a standard charge set by each local council and is payable by all people over the age of 18 living within the council's catchment area."

"It supersedes the old rates system, which is no longer payable."

"All Servicemen and their wives and dependants over the age of 18 are liable to pay the Community Charge for the facilities charge if serving overseas; however, those living in public accommodation will no longer pay the rates element of the quartering charge."

"The rates element was charged separately on pay statements until April 1, when it ceased."

"It follows that those paying the higher quartering charges, which in the past attracted much higher rates, will benefit to a greater degree as a result of the Community Charge because senior ranks pay the same level of Community Charge as junior ranks."

"This situation precisely mirrors the effect of the Community Charge on those in the general population who previously paid high rates."

Youngsters get chance to vote

SONS and daughters of Service personnel will no longer be disenfranchised when it comes to voting in general and European elections.

In the past, 18-year-olds living abroad with their parents were unable to register on a UK roll.

But the law was changed in March to streamline the process for British citizens

living abroad, and Service youngsters will benefit.

You must be at least 18, or will become 18 when the register you want to be on is in force.

You have to register every year on or before October 10 (or September 15 if you were previously living in Northern Ireland), and can then vote at elections held in the 12

months starting on the following February 16.

You may continue to register for 20 years.

You will need an Overseas Elector's Declaration form (from the nearest British consular or diplomatic mission) and if you left the UK before you were old enough to register, you will have to provide a copy of your birth certificate.

New élitism beckons the 'Professionals'

MILITARY tradition and a regimental system can be magnetically attractive to serving soldiers and to ex-members of a long established regiment; understandable when esprit-de-corps is born out of the camaraderie inspired by the dangers of battle and often by the conviction that one's regiment is superior in the context of a standing army or territorial force.

Brig Peter Dietz, a Royal Marine in the Second World War, one-time instructor at the Commando Mountain Warfare School and latterly Commandant of the Royal Army Educational Corps, Beaconsfield, has in *The Last of the Regiments* aired an argument attacking what he sees as an innate conservatism within the forces as a stumbling block to progress.

He feels that the Army's approach to its own structure is often outdated and now inappropriate in the divisiveness that exists between socially select regiments and 'more homespun', albeit highly professional, corps.

The fear he expresses is that the reactionary influences represented by the 'fashionable' regiments may erode the status of formations which, it is asserted, are more in tune with the current role of the Services.

Rather than tradition, the author contends that professional conduct, as demonstrated by The Parachute Regiment and the Royal Marines in the Falklands, a new 'regimental spirit' stemming from a demand for the highest personal standards, should be the basis of élitism.

"The future of the 'Aberrant Corps' can be studied very profitably in the light of the Falklands campaign. It must first be noted that only so-called élite troops were employed by the British in the land fighting. The land battle was almost, and could entirely have been, won by the 'new élites', the Royal Marine Commandos and two battalions

of The Parachute Regiment."

Apart from the 'new élitist' argument, the book is virtually a history of the regimental system of the British Army, tracing its origins to the discipline of the Romans, the Saxon spirit, Norman chivalry and the feudal state.

The more recognisable aspects of regimental traditions are dealt with in several chapters covering the long period from the close of the 16th Century up to the late 19th Century Army Reforms under Cardwell, Wolseley and Childer.

The author sees the Localisation reforms of 1881, under which the regimental number system was abolished, and often two regiments amalgamated as one, as the "beginning of the end of the regiments".

Brig Dietz's opinion that "It is essential now that the trappings of an obsolete system are not retained at the expense of the vital spirit", will raise a few eyebrows and be the cause of irritation in some quarters. But the point of view needed to be aired and certainly cannot be ignored, even if in some parts of the book the thread of the argument is hard to follow. — BJ

The Last of the Regiments: Their Rise and Fall by Peter Dietz. Published by Brassey's (UK). Price (hardback) £29.95.

Fighting For Peace by Caspar Weinberger. Seven critical years in the Pentagon through the eyes of the former US Defense Secretary, with a chapter devoted to the high politics and diplomacy surrounding the Falklands War. Published by Michael Joseph. Price £18.99.

Dunkirk Diary of a Very Young Soldier by Wilf Saunders. Day-to-day, and sometimes hour-by-hour account of the evacuation, 50 years on. Published ringbound by Birmingham City Council and available from Birmingham Library Shop, Central Library, Birmingham B3 3HQ. Price £2.95 plus 35p p&p.



The new élite . . . members of The Parachute Regiment celebrate Falklands victory in Stanley

Tales from the Peninsula

"ONE of the few happy events of the capture of Badajoz was the rescue by Major Harry Smith of the Light Division of a 14-year-old Spanish girl, Juana Maria de los Dolores de Leou, who appealed to him to rescue her from plundering soldiers, who had already torn the earrings from her ears.

"A few days later he married her and she accompanied him throughout the rest of the campaign, earning the affection

and respect of all who met her."

After the war, Maj Smith was to become Gen Sir Harry Smith, Governor of the Cape in South Africa, and his wife gave her name to Ladysmith, the besieged town in the Boer War.

This is one of the many anecdotes and items of information to be found in Sir Julian Paget's *Wellington's Peninsular War*, a concise account of what is regarded as one of, if not the,

most outstanding and sustained feats of the British Army.

Main part of the book comprises single chapter treatment of each of the major battles, orders of battle of the forces engaged, maps and photographs of the battlefields, and how to find and explore them.

A particularly interesting element is Sir Julian's comparison of this war to other conflicts.

"Studying the Peninsular War, I have been constantly struck by the number of comparisons that can be made with the Second World War, and it is one of the themes of the book . . ."

For example, Corunna: after the retreat in December 1809, the battle, and the commander's death, the British army was bundled out of the Peninsula.

"It is impossible not to compare 1809 and 1940. In each case a courageous C-in-C (be he called Moore or Gort) saved Britain's main army. In each case it meant suffering an ignominious retreat (be it Corunna or Dunkirk), and

abandoning our allies for the moment; but at least the dictator dominating Europe was deprived of final victory . . ."

The incidents recorded are sometimes humorous and always enlightening. We are told how Marshal Andre Messina rode to the village of Cotovios to observe the British positions during the confrontation called the Lines of Torres Vedras. He was spotted by an alert artilleryman who fired a shot in warning.

"The shot hit the wall close to the Marshal, who lifted his hat in acknowledgement and retired out of range."

Wellington's Peninsular War must be regarded as one of the best introductory guides to that war. The author does not fail to give credit to the Spanish and Portuguese contributions, without which Wellington's victory would not have been possible. — BJ

Wellington's Peninsular War: Battles and Battlefields by Julian Paget. Published by Leo Cooper. Price (hardback) £17.95.

BOOK REVIEWS

Allied feud behind battle of the Rhine

THE battle that began on February 8, 1945, the last great offensive that was to take the Western Allies over the Rhine and into the heart of Germany, was the start of six weeks of bitter fighting in miserable winter weather.

The campaign involved many Canadian soldiers and it is right that a detailed history should be written by a Canadian, Brig Gen Denis Whitaker, who commanded the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry at the time. His book, written in collaboration with his wife Shelagh, *Rhineland: The Battle to End the War*, is an account of a battle marked by conflicting national feelings hardening to outright jealousies, and the inability of the Supreme Commander, Eisenhower, to unify his feuding generals.

In contrast, the Germans had the advantage of a united command with a single dedication – to defend the Fatherland: "Historically, the Germans had always believed the Rhine was a water barrier of formidable might that could repel any enemy invasion."

The book is the story of five operations: Veritable, Grenade and Blockbuster, that took the Allies to the Rhine; Plunder that propelled them over the river; and Varsity that ensured their bridgehead and the ensuing breakout.

D-Days for the opening operations aimed at converging on the Rhine opposite Wesel, Veritable (Canadian and British forces) and Grenade (Ninth US Army), were finalised for February 8 and 10 respectively.

In the event, Grenade was to be much-delayed, and the authors condemn what they describe as the "First Army's prolonged neglect" in seizing the Roer dams, placing the blame squarely on the shoulders of Lt Gen Courtney Hodges, the US First Army Commander.

In fact, in the book one can find compliments paid to only one US general, William

Simpson, who led the US Ninth Army in Operation Grenade and, subsequently, over the Rhine.

Operation Veritable, the Canadian-British part of the campaign, was a hard battle over flooded ground, the combined effect of blown dams and torrential rain.

"It took as long to conquer the 20 miles to the Rhine as it did to cross the next 200 miles into the heart of Nazi Germany, and the cost was higher."

Mistakes were manifold: Army Group commander, Montgomery, in his double-pronged breakout, had underestimated both the weather and the enemy, and poor intelligence and chaotic communications led to confused fighting in and around the town of Cleve.

It was up to the commanders and men at the sharp end to adapt the "paper" operation into a battlefield reality.

The Rhine crossing and the airborne landings the next day are fully covered and we read how, in retrospect, Operation Varsity – the airborne part of the crossing – was such a dangerous gamble.

"When the terrible tally of lives lost was calculated, it was to be the last glider combat ever attempted . . . But what a day it was . . . In six hours, it was all over. Most of the objectives had been secured, and the ground troops had fought their way inland to form a firm link with the airborne . . ."

Rhineland is a well-balanced appraisal of the offensive that made possible the final and successful phase of the war in Europe.

It is also a tribute to those who took part: "The 117,000 men from both sides of the hill who lost their lives, their limbs, and, sometimes, their freedom in that slog to the banks of the Rhine left a permanent imprint."

Rhineland: The Battle to End the War by W D and S Whitaker. Published by Leo Cooper. Price, hardback, £17.50.

IN BRIEF

The Dambusters Raid by John Sweetman. With new information to hand the author, Head of the Department of Defence and International Affairs at RMA Sandhurst, has exploded myths and corrected inaccuracies surrounding this famous operation. Published by Cassell. Price £14.95.

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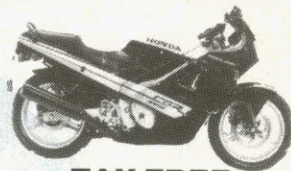
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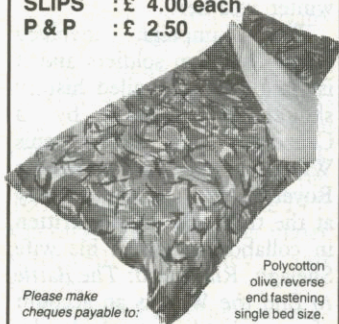
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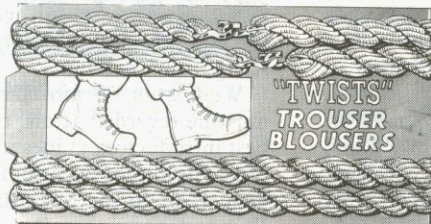
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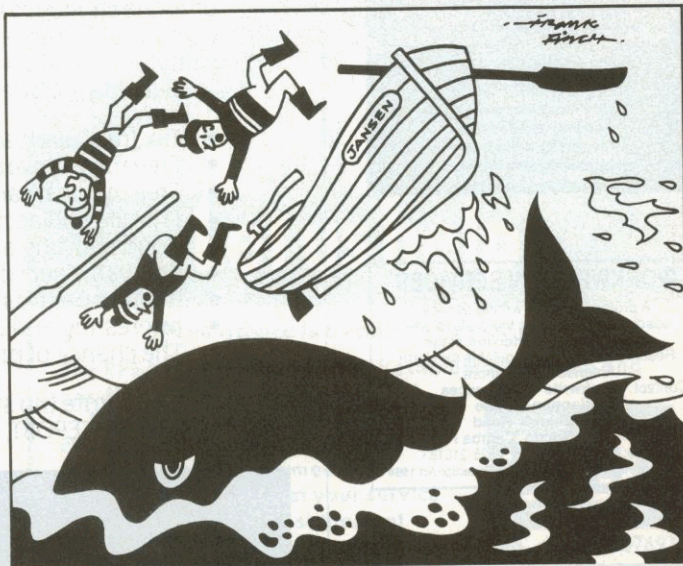
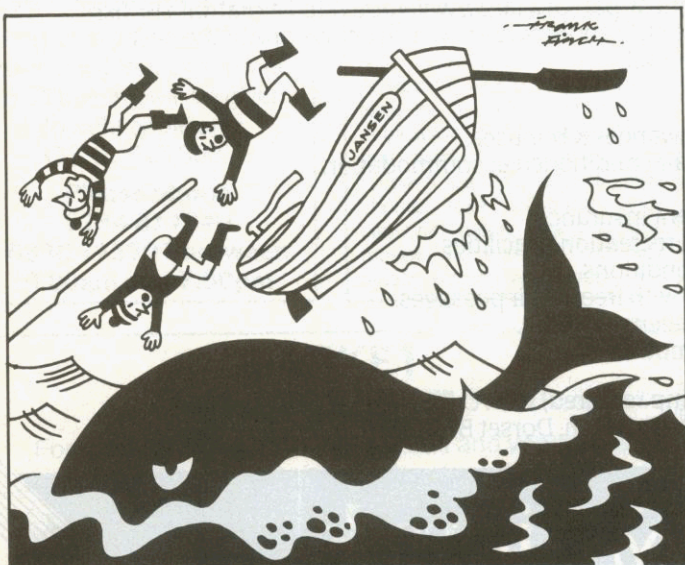
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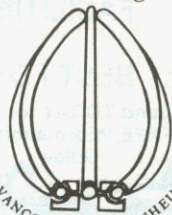
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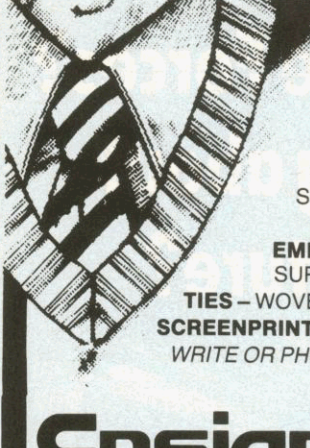
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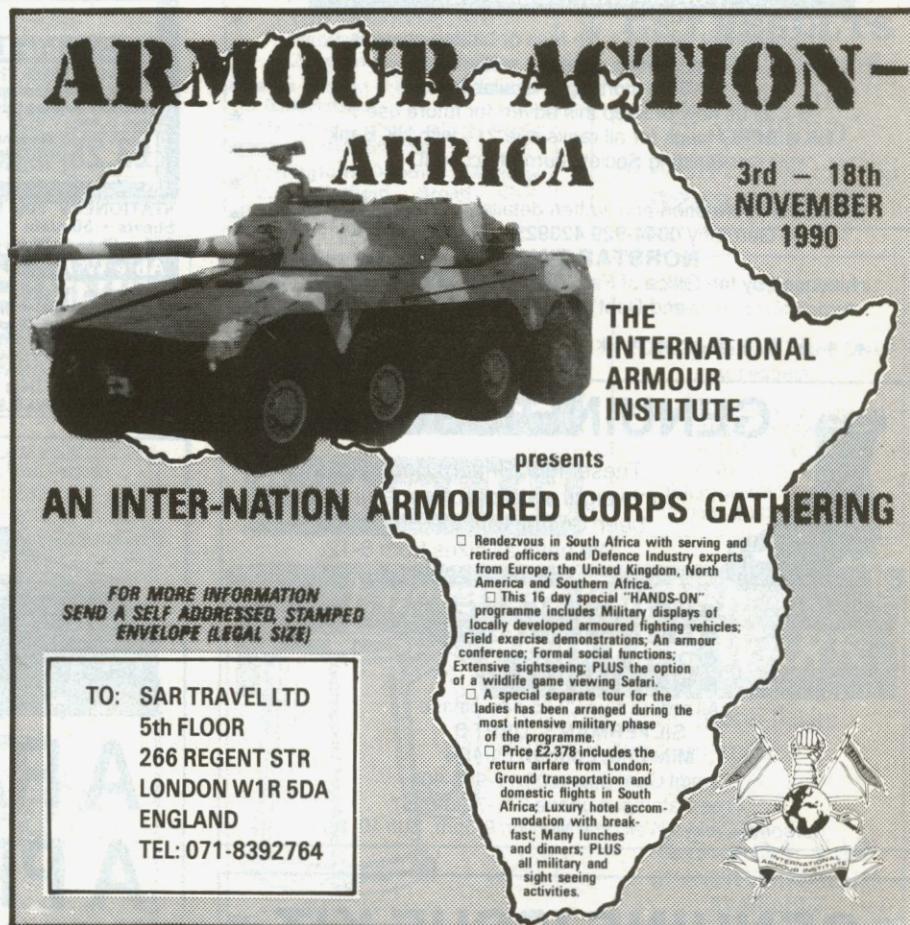
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Canoeing chefs whip the cream

A SMALL contingent of Army Catering Corps paddlers led the field in most events at the UKLF canoe slalom championships held at Llandysul.

A low water level ensured that the rocks dictated a

demanding and technical course, but the standard of competition was very high.

Leading the way for the catering canoeists was Capt Paul Hepworth ACC who won the Canadian singles for the

third year and teamed up with SSgt Kevin Truby (R Signals) to take the Canadian doubles.

SSgt Jimmy Waterhouse MPSC was second in the singles ahead of the ACC's WO1 Neil Martin, and Waterhouse and

Martin combined their talents to finish second in the doubles.

App Cpl Scott ACC won the junior kayak event and the ACC Training Centre clinched the team event through Martin, Sgt Dave Brunton and Scott.

Brits lose to Russia in final

A RUSSIAN team which contained four 1982 World Cup players beat a Combined Services side from Berlin 1-0 in the final of a six-team goodwill football tournament at the Maifeld.

American, French and German teams were also involved.

The British Services team beat French Forces (Berlin) 2-0 and Herlitz 5-0 to qualify for the final.

Included in the Combined Services side were Sgts Terry Meadows and Billy Halliday and Gdsmn Steve Withers (1 IG); Cpl Titch Lovell and LCpls Mark Skelton, Russell Bryan and Frankie Delaney (1 LI); Sgt Ian Rutherford and Cpls Ian Gilmore and Tim Williams (HQ Signals); and Cpl Ian Booth (Postal/Courier HQ Inf Bde), who saved a penalty in the final.

Osnabrück sappers in form

FOOTBALLING sappers of 73 Field Squadron RE from 23 Engineer Regiment based at Osnabrück carried off the Garrison General's Cup after beating 2 Sqn RCT in the final and three days later travelled to Fallingbomstet where they won the 1 Arm'd Div General's Cup in a round robin competition involving LAD 1 RHA and 16 Tk Tpt Sqn RCT.

Later the 23 Engr Regt success continued with the winning of the Garrison Cup for major units and the runners-up medals in the Liberation tournament.



Sgt Kevin Parkins starts an attack with SSgt Pat Russell (centre) in support

Shaun hits target on Hong Kong tour

TWO goals by Cpl Shaun Gilman (RAOC) got the Army's three-match football tour of Hong Kong off to a great start.

A day after the tourists had flown in from the United Kingdom they took on the strong South China side, current Hong Kong champions.

Sgt Kevin Parkins (RCT) marshalled his defence well as the Chinese started strongly,

and deservedly went ahead through Gilman in the 28th minute after good work by Sig Paul Brown (R Signals) and Sgt Alan Higgins (R Signals).

Ten minutes later SSgt Pat Russell (APTC) put Gilman through for his second goal, and the match finished 2-0 to the Army. Parkins and LBdr Basher Bates were outstanding in defence.

Fatigue caught up with the

Army in the second match of the tour against Happy Valley, who finished third in the Hong Kong First Division. The home side was 3-0 ahead at half time, and although Gilman and Brown reduced the deficit in the second half, Happy Valley ran out 4-2 winners.

Substitute SSgt Joey Roach (APTC) scored the winner in the final match against Hong Kong Football Club, a team of expatriate Brits just relegated from the Colony's First Division.

But the game was played on an appalling surface and neither side could settle into any rhythm or fluency.

Players in the tour party were Parkins, May (RCT); Wiscombe, Russell, Roach (APTC); Higgins, Strouts Glasgow (RE); Bates, Jackson (RA); and Gilman (RAOC).

Sandhurst staff hit for six

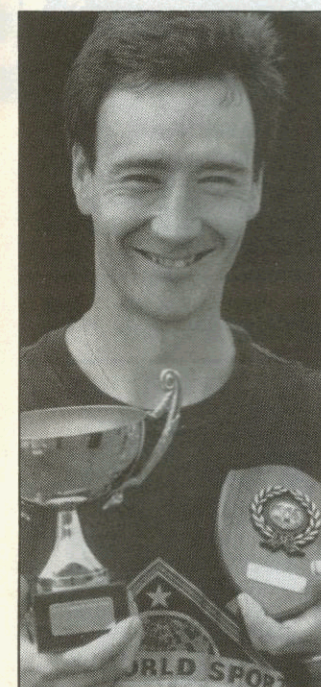
HIT for six, but happy all the same. That was the reaction of the PSV Sandhurst football team after they had been beaten 6-0 by Vauxhall League hopefuls Cove FC at Pirbright.

The PSV side, made up of Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Permanent Staff, chal-

lenged Cove of the Dan-Air Football League premier division to a match to celebrate successful seasons in their respective leagues. It is hoped a return pre-season friendly at Cove will herald the start of an annual fixture between the clubs.



BAOR marathon team champions are Cpl Peter Murphy, Capt Clive Osborne and Sgt John Foster from 3 Arm'd Div Tpt Regt



Winner of the Tidworth half marathon in a time of 1 hr 9 min was Bdr Nigel Pedge (pictured above) of 14 Field Regiment RA based at Larkhill. He was the first of 620 runners to cross the finishing line.

Infantry pulls its own weight

THE newly-formed Infantry Rowing Club reached the finals of all five events at the annual Joint Services regatta, and went on to win three of them. It was the club's first competitive outing.

Winners of the novice four were LCpl Stewart Bensadon (Gib Regt), Sgt Steve Nash (DERR), Maj Tim Barrett (Kings Own Border), 2nd Lt Jonathan Ball (QLR) and WO2 Colin Easton (RRF), the cox.

Lt Hugh Marsden (RGJ) took the novice sculls and Sgt Bob Milligan, also a Green Jacket, won the veteran sculls.

Also involved in the infantry team were Maj Nick Sim (R Hamps), Maj Victor Hamill (UDR) and 2nd Lt Jenny Cave (WRAC), who coxed the veteran four.

Marsden was invited to join

the Army eight in the inter-Service event.

Next year's regatta will be hosted by the Army and plans are already being made for the event. Oarsmen who wish to be considered should contact Maj Mark Perkins, Secretary Army Rowing Clubs Association, MoD D160d, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BL who will put them in touch with their relevant rowing representative.



Winners of the novice fours race were WO2 Colin Easton (cox), 2nd Lt Jonathan Ball, Maj Tim Barratt, Sgt Steve Nash and LCpl Stewart Bensadon

Marathon man Alex is BAOR champion

WO2 (QMSI) Alex Rodgers from Rheindahlen won the BAOR marathon championship run in conjunction with the fifth Moenchengladbach REME City marathon. The field of 570 included more than 200 military personnel.

The event, run over a fast, flat course through the suburbs, also included the RAF Germany and REME championships.

Rodgers ran a splendid solo race to finish in second place overall in 2 hr 29 min. The Army team prize went to the very strong 3 Arm'd Div Tpt Regt contingent, with Cpl Peter Murphy, Sgt John Foster and Capt Clive Osborne packing second, third and fourth places for an aggregate time of 8 hr 11 min.

Cpl Melanie Bradley of BMH Hanover smashed the Army women's course record by 29 minutes to race home in second place overall in 3 hr 5 min. Cpl James Cargill of 22 Air Defence Regiment Workshop took the REME title and 3 Arm'd Div Tpt Regt Wksp the corps team title.

Super seven

BAOR inter-unit novice team judo champions 25 Engineer Regiment won seven out of a possible nine medals in the novice category of the Osnabrück judo championships.

Big field for Berlin race

HUNDREDS of British Servicemen are expected to take part in the 4th Anglo-German 10km run in Berlin on July 15. British and German charities will benefit from the steadily

growing event which is aimed at promoting contact between Britons and Berliners.

Details are available from CSgt JW Lawton, Berlin HQ and Signal Regiment.

Scottish Division triumphs in Peaks Race

FOR the second successive year the Scottish Division team of sailor-athletes has won the Pathfinder Trophy for the best Service yacht in the Bruichladdich Scottish Islands Peaks Race.

Fighting off tough opposition from the Royal Navy, the soldiers finished a worthy ninth out of 55 entries and were fourth monohull home.

Because of very light airs the team rowed their yacht, a Hustler 32ft called Smokey Bear, 60 of the 140 miles. The

course included a total of 60 miles running and 12,000ft of climbing over the highest peaks on Mull, Jura and Arran.

The Scottish Division entry beat the Royal Navy by two hours and the Royal Air Force by more than six hours.

Skipper of Smokey Bear was Maj Alex Bryson RHF. His crew included Lt Jeremy Sweatenham Scots DG and Lt Richard Nicolson RHF, and runners Sgt Allan Brown APTC and Cpl Alan Cunningham, Gordons.



From left on Smokey Bear are Lt Sweatenham, Sgt Brown, Cpl Cunningham, Lt Nicolson and Maj Bryson

Bowled over

Four out of four for Jerry

ARMY medium pacer Fus Jerry Jeremias (2 RRF) improved on the hat trick by taking four wickets with consecutive balls against the Arabs at Aldershot.

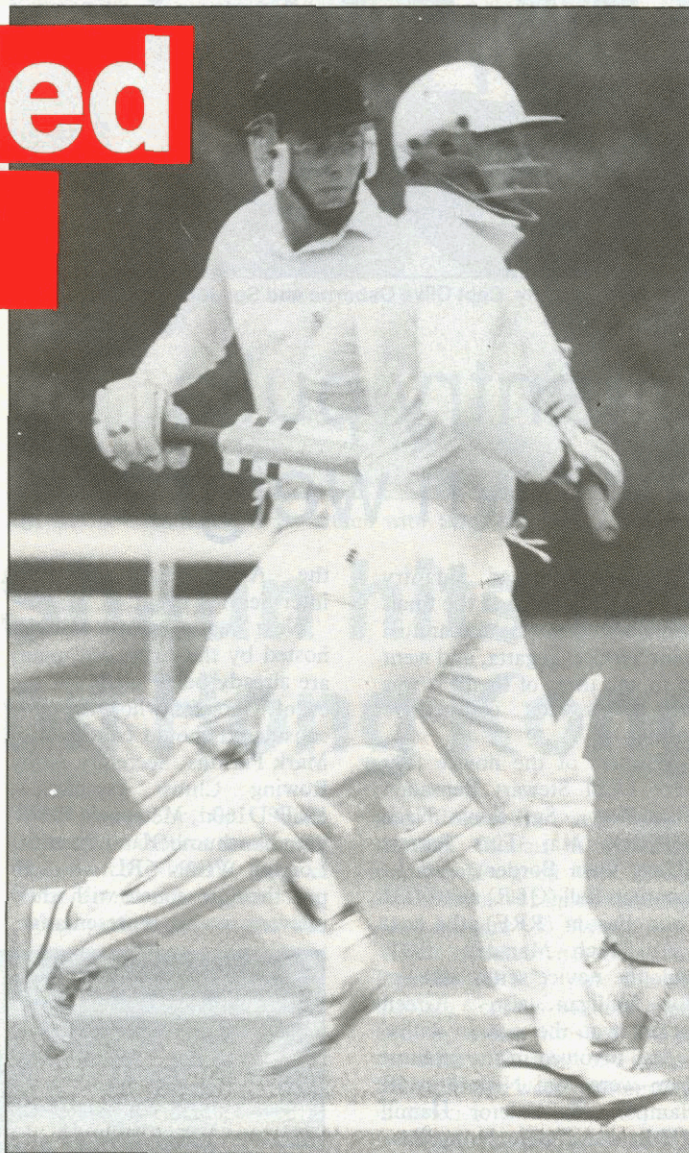
Capt Jimmy Cotterill (16 AD Regt RA) with 45, Maj Tim Lerwill (LI), 81, and Capt Guy Bishop (LI) with 32 were the chief contributors to the Army's big total of 247 for eight.

Lt Keith Rumbelow (1 Queens) undermined the visitors' reply with an opening spell of 2-10 in nine overs, but Jeremias ended the match as a contest with his four wickets in consecutive balls.

Army 247-8 (Cotterill 45, Lerwill 81, Bishop 32, Storey 26; Fox 4-48). **Arabs** 103 (Barker 42; Rumbelow 2-10, Jeremias 4-21, Scott 2-29). The Army won by 144 runs.

A promising reply by the Army against the MCC Young Cricketers in a 55-over match at Aldershot gradually ran out of steam and ended with a 16-run win for the apprentice professionals.

Chasing MCC's 217, the Army got off to a solid start



Picture: Mike Perring

It went that way . . . Capt Jimmy Cotterill (dark helmet) and 2nd Lt Richard Greatorex cross for another run during their opening stand of 74 against the MCC Young Cricketers at Aldershot

when openers Cotterill and 2nd Lt Richard Greatorex (27 Regt RCT) put on 74.

Cotterill was dismissed for 29, but the left-handed Greatorex went on to complete his half century during a 46-run partnership with Capt David O'Kelly (Green Howards) who

made 26. Lerwill and Pte John Storey (1 Queens) were both trapped lbw for no score and the innings declined.

Cpl Nick Palmer (655 Sqn AAC) hit 36 to bolster the middle order but the Army were dismissed 16 short of their target with four balls to go.

Double perfection

TWO golfing generals scored holes-in-one during the annual match between the hierarchy of the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

Gen Sir John Akehurst recorded his perfect shot in the General v Admirals match while Maj Gen Peter Benson, current holder of the Generals' Cup, holed his tee shot in the Generals v Air Marshals clash.

Winners for the third successive year were the Army's top brass. The Admirals, Generals, Air Marshals match has been played since 1929.



Fus Jerry Jeremias

MCC Young Cricketers 217-5 (R Heaton 86, T Chadwick 44; Capt Paul Presland 3-47). **Army** 201 (Cotterill 29, Greatorex 64, O'Kelly 26, Palmer 36; Marriott 4-30, Giddins 3-17). MCC Young Cricketers won by 16 runs.

President's XI 262-6 dec (P Denning 102, W Cooper 62). **Army U-25** 263-8 (Palmer 103, Thicknesse 75 not). Army U-25 won by 2 wickets.

Southern Cricket League 227 (C Surry 95; Thicknesse 2-23). **Army U-25** 173 (Palmer 45, Thicknesse 35). SCL won by 54 runs.

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SOLDIER



All in a line. The trumpeters of the 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery make an impressive sight—and sound—at their home in Hohne, West Germany. A feature on the Horse Gunners and their trumpeters begins on Page 17.

Picture: Mike Weston